

## **Asfah Sultana Bhagdin: Summary Curriculum Vitae**

Asfah Bhagdin is a full-time forensic consultant for J P French Associates, having first worked for the company for over 6 years on a part-time basis. She is a native speaker of English, Urdu and Panjabi and works mainly within the areas of transcription, speaker comparison and disputed utterance analysis in cases involving English, Urdu and Panjabi.

She holds a BA (Hons) degree of the University of Leeds in Language Studies with Psychology, an MA in Language and Linguistic Science from the University of York and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education of the University of Leeds.

Her MA included courses in Sociolinguistics - with a focus on ethnic minority languages and bilingualism - Language Variation and Change, Phonetics (including acoustic phonetics) and Forensic Phonetics. Her MA dissertation entailed research on cross-linguistic interference of Panjabi and Urdu on the spoken English of adolescents.

After University she worked for a firm of solicitors where her responsibilities included taking witness statements in Panjabi and Urdu and translating them into English as well as interpreting in court.

Ms Bhagdin worked on the education staff of a Young Offenders' Institution for five years, where she held the post of Lecturer in English. Her duties involved teaching young men (15 - 18 years) from a wide range of regional and ethnic backgrounds and some for whom Panjabi was their first language. She also served as an Urdu and Panjabi – English interpreter in the Institution.

She is an elected member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA).

She has given expert evidence on Pakistani/Indian English and Mirpuri, Panjabi and Urdu in the Crown Court, including the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey) in terrorist, drugs and murder cases. She has also given evidence in the Sindh High Court, Karachi (court removed to England to hear expert evidence). In criminal cases she undertakes work for both prosecution and defence.