

Asfa Sultana Bhagdin: Summary Curriculum Vitae

Asfa 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 Urdu/Panjabi and works mainly within the areas of transcription, speaker comparison and disputed utterance analysis in cases involving Urdu/Panjabi and Pakistani/Indian accented varieties of English.

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/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/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) who were mainly first language speakers of Urdu and Panjabi. She also served as an Urdu/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 Panjabi/Urdu in the Crown Court, including the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey), and

the Sindh High Court, Karachi (court removed to England to hear expert evidence). In criminal cases she undertakes work for both prosecution and defence.