

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What is Modern Foreign Language? (from

<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/language.htm>)

“Language plays a unique role in capturing the breadth of human diversity. We are constantly amazed by the variety of human thought, culture, society and literature expressed in many thousands of languages around the world. We can find out what people think only through their language. We can find out what they thought in the past only if we read their written records. We can tell future generations about ourselves only if we speak or write to them.

Studying a foreign language can improve your cognitive- and critical-thinking abilities. Recent surveys indicate that more than 80 agencies of the federal government rely on professionals with intermediate to high-level competence in foreign languages. Foreign language study provides the ability to gain an understanding of the cultures of U.S. trading partners. American multinational corporations and nongovernmental organizations need people with foreign language abilities. The United States’ ability to compete effectively in global markets means that more and more businesses deal with companies in other countries. They need employees who can communicate in foreign languages and understand other cultures. An employer will see you as a bridge to new clients if you know their language.”

What are the career opportunities for a Foreign Language concentrator?

Related Career Titles (additional education or experience may be required)

Accountant	FBI Agent	Investment Analyst
Advertising Manager	Filmmaker	Journalist
Advertising Copywriter	Finance Director	Laboratory Technician
Air Traffic Assistant	Financial Planning Assoc.	Lawyer
Archivist	Foreign Diplomat	Library Technician
Art Dealer	Foreign Correspondent	Linguist
Auditor	Foreign Exchange Trader	Media Specialist
Banking Correspondent	Foreign Service Officer	Missionary
Bilingual Officers/Clerks/Tellers	Foreign Service Peacekeeper	Multi-Lingual Port Receptionist
Bilingual Educator	Foreign Service Specialist	Museum Curator
Bookkeeper	Foreign Social Worker	Musician
Civil Service Employee	Fund Raiser	National Security Agent
Commercial Loan Officer	Human Resources Director	Negotiator
Computer Systems Designer	Importer/Exporter	Overseas Personnel Manager
Consultant	Intelligence Researcher	Overseas Plant Manager
Copywriter	Intelligence Specialist	Paralegal
Court Interpreter	Int’l Account Manager	Peace Corps Volunteer
Cultural Attaché	International Banking Officer	Performer/Video Artist
Cultural Officer	Int’l Conference Planner	Pharmaceutical Rep.
Customs/Immigration Officer	International Consultant	Pharmacist
Drug Enforcement Agent	International Hotel Admin.	Police Officer
Editor	International Trade Economist	Politician

Escort/Interpreter/Guide	Intern'l Trade Specialist	Production Supervisor
Travel Agent Tour Organizer	Scientific Transl./Interpreter	Proofreader
Translator	Senior Credit Analyst	Public Health Administrator
Transport Equipment Manager	Sports Agent	Publishing Specialist
Travel Writer	Teacher	Quality Control Supervisor
UNESCO Official	Telecommunications Sales	Radio/TV Announcer
Writer	TESO/ESL Teacher	Reporter
Professor	Theme Designer	Salesperson
Interpreter		Scientific Linguist

How can you get ready?

- Choose an additional academic area of study to supplement the foreign language, preferably one that requires a high degree of technical skill. Most people with foreign language ability use those skills to assist them in a different career field such as business, education, etc.
- Related courses to study include geography, history, civilization, foreign relations, international law and world economics.
- Decide and choose which language is necessary for your career. Decide the level of foreign language ability you will need to acquire for success in your career.
- Travel to a foreign country or study abroad to learn different cultures.
- Study and practice your foreign language skills by reading foreign newspapers, magazines and books.
- Watch foreign movies and listen to foreign broadcasts to maintain your fluency.
- Volunteer your language skills to churches, community organizations and programs that work with people who speak your target language.
- Participate in summer programs, co-ops and internships to improve your skills.
- Pen pal with a correspondent from a foreign country.
- Contact professional associations and read their publications to learn about job opportunities.
- Research job postings on the Internet to get an idea of jobs in which knowledge of a foreign language is useful.

Related Major Skills

Speaking to groups	Reading/writing another language
Clarifying ideas	Writing clearly
Understanding historical language change	Explaining complex concepts
Reading critically	Interpreting data
Evaluating information	Evaluating evidence
Comparing translations/interpretations	Gathering information
Working with original sources in many fields	Organizing materials/information
Summarizing ideas	Compiling/recording data
Evaluating results	Collaborating as part of a team
Determining the needs of others	Acknowledging value systems
Listening carefully	Interviewing non-judgmentally

Designing instruments	Reporting and editing
Establishing hypotheses	Reading for content and structure
Working with research subjects	Communicating between cultures
Understanding cultural diversity	Assessing needs
Adapting to other cultures	Weighing values

What about the future? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos175.htm>)

“Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to increase 24 percent over the 2006-16 decade, much faster than the average for all occupations. This growth will be driven partly by strong demand in health care settings and work related to homeland security. Additionally, higher demand for interpreters and translators results directly from the broadening of international ties and the increase in the number of foreign language speakers in the United States. Both of these trends are expected to continue, contributing to relatively rapid growth in the number of jobs for interpreters and translators.”

For more specific job outlook information regarding related occupations, refer to <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>.

Available at Albright College Career Development Center’s Resource Library

- [Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors](#), by Julie DeGalan and Stephen Lambert
- [Career Opportunities in the Travel Industry](#), Jody Colbert
- [Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types](#), by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- [Careers for Born Leaders and Other Decisive Types](#), by Blythe Camenson
- [Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types](#), by Jan Goldberg
- [Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados and Other Multilingual Types](#), by H. Ned Seelye and J. Laurence Day
- [Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types](#), by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- [Careers for History Buffs and Others Who Learn From The Past](#), by Blythe Camenson
- [Careers for Patriotic Types and Others Who Want to Serve Their Country](#), by Jan Goldberg
- [Careers for Talkative Types and Others with the Gift of Gab](#), by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- [Careers for Travel Buffs and Other Restless Types](#), by Paul Plawin
- [Opportunities in Federal Government Careers](#), by Neale Baxter
- [Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers](#), by Wilma M. Rivers
- [Opportunities in International Business Careers](#), by Jeffrey S. Arpan
- [Opportunities in Overseas Careers](#), by Blythe Camenson
- [Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers](#), by Neale Baxter
- [Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages](#), by Blythe Camenson
- [Opportunities in Travel Careers](#), by Robert Scott Milne and Marguerite Backhausen

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/english.htm>.

Job and Internship Search Links

- Top Language Jobs <http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk/>
- Asian-Jobs: Jobs for bilinguals who speak English and Asian Languages <http://www.asian-jobs.com>
- Hispanic-Jobs: Jobs for bilingual/Spanish-speaking Professionals <http://www.hispanic-jobs.com>
- Information on jobs in Spanish-speaking world. In Spanish <http://www.laneta.apc.org>
- Resources for International Job Opportunities <http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>
- Overseas Jobs <http://www.overseasjobs.com/>
- Overseas Recruitment, <http://www.overseas-recruitment.com>
- Footprints Recruiting <http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/index.php>
- Saludos Web (Hispanic Careers and Education) <http://www.saludos.com/>
- Bilingual Jobs <http://www.twolingos.com/jobs/index.php>
- Multilingual Vacancies <http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/>
- Bilingual Career <http://www.bilingualcareer.com/>
- Department of State <http://www.state.gov/employment/>
- International Jobs Center, <http://www.internationaljobs.org>
- JobPilot (Europe), <http://www.jobpilot.net>

Professional Associations Links

- Foreign Language Associations (links to associations) http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml
- American Translators Association <http://www.atanet.org/bin/view.pl/181.html>
- Modern Language Association <http://www.mla.org/>
- American Association for Applied Linguistics <http://www.aaal.org/>
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages <http://www.actfl.org/>

Miscellaneous Resources

- Languages of the World <http://www.nvtc.gov/lotw/index.html>
- The Electronic Embassy <http://www.embassy.org/>
- United Nations <http://www.un.org>
- National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.cal.org>
- American Field Service (AFS) <http://www.afs.org/>
- Foreign Policy Association, <http://www.fpa.org>
- Global Peace and Security Resources, <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subjects/global/global.html>
- Global Service Corps, <http://www.globalservicecorps.org>
- International Affairs Resources, <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>
- NGO Global Network, <http://www.ngo.org/index2.htm>
- Rotary International, <http://www.rotary.org/foundation>
- The Peace Corps, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- Union of International Associations, <http://www.uia.org>