



**World Languages and
Cultures**

Government

Translation/Interpretation

Language analysis

Linguistics

Diplomacy

Civil service

Foreign service

Immigration/Naturalization

Customs

Intelligence

Security and protection

Law enforcement

Journalism/Broadcasting

Government Employers

Federal government organizations:

- Overseas aid agencies

Intelligence and law enforcement agencies:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Drug Enforcement Administration

Department of State

Homeland Security:

- US Customs and Border Patrol
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services

Department of Defense:

- US Armed Forces
- National Guard
- National Security Agency

Department of Commerce

Agency for International Development (USAID)

Peace Corps, VISTA, Americorps

Library of Congress

Voice of America

US District Courts

United Nations

Government Strategies

The government is one of the largest employers of people with foreign language skills. Consider studying a critical need language for the greatest number of opportunities.

Complete an internship with a federal agency and maintain a high GPA to be a more competitive candidate.

Learn government job application procedures. Plan to apply early and inquire frequently about job vacancies.

Review special hiring authorizations to be hired and to advance more quickly.

Participate in campus organizations and activities that promote interaction with international students.

Attend a specialized school that teaches foreign languages for additional training.

Live abroad and gain knowledge of politics and economics to prepare for a career in this field.

Increase knowledge of geography, history, and international affairs.

Join the armed forces as a way to get experience.

Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities.

Industry and Commerce

Translation/Interpretation

Banking/Finance

Sales

Customer services

Manufacturing

Logistics and transportation

Supply chain management

Engineering/Technical

Computer and software services

Research

Operations management

Consulting

Importing/Exporting

Administrative services

Advertising and marketing

Human resources

Law

Industry and Commerce Employers

Banks and financial institutions

Import/Export companies

International companies:

- Foreign firms operating in the US
- US firms operating in foreign countries

Manufacturers, including automobile

Retail stores

Environmental firms

Consulting agencies

Sports organizations

Telecommunications companies

Computer and software firms

Advertising agencies

Professional associations

Law firms

Industry and Commerce Strategies

Supplement coursework with business classes or earn a business minor.

Develop international competency by living and working abroad and by interacting with international students on campus.

Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles.

Research which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.

Be prepared to start in a position in the US working for a firm with an overseas presence. Very few entry level positions are available in international business.

Some jobs will require graduate degrees in fields such as business, law, or related areas.

Travel and Tourism

Translation/Interpretation

Airline services

Management

Booking and reservations

Travel services/guidance

Ecotourism

Travel and Tourism Employers

Tour and excursion companies

Travel agencies

Hotels/Motels

Resorts

Restaurants

Airlines/Airports

Cruise lines

Railroads

Bus lines

Car rental agencies

Convention centers

Chambers of commerce

Travel and Tourism Strategies

Take courses in hotel/restaurant administration or recreation and tourism management.

Get a part-time job in a hotel or restaurant to gain experience.

Spend some time abroad to learn about various cultures and traditions.

Brush up on your knowledge of geography.

Consider attending a travel and tourism school.

Develop office management and technology skills.

Maintain a travel blog.

Show an attention to detail.

Read international newspapers to keep up with overseas developments.

Interpretation and Translation

Interpretation (Simultaneous & Consecutive):

- **Business, conference, escort/guide, judiciary (court)**

Translation:

- **Legal, literary, localization, machine, medical, technical**

Steganography

Lexicography

Interpretation and Translation Employers

Freelance

Educational services

Business services

Government agencies

Healthcare organizations

International organizations

Nonprofit and social service organizations

Courts

Publishers

Libraries

Interpretation and Translation Strategies

Develop fluency in a second language. Seek out any opportunity to converse with native speakers to better learn the language.

Learn a third language for increased job opportunities. Some languages such as Middle Eastern or Asian ones are in more demand than others.

Gain experience through internships or volunteering.

Seek certification or accreditation from an interpretation/translation organization.

Being bilingual does not automatically qualify one to serve as an interpreter or translator.

Learn to listen to one language while speaking another at the same time.

Gain skills with computers and relevant software programs.

Interpreters and translators who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.

Develop skills in negotiation and the ability to work well under stress.

Most people who work in this field freelance. Show language expertise, initiative, and motivation as this is a very competitive field.

Arts, Media, and Entertainment

Advertising and marketing

Translation/Interpretation

Journalism/Broadcasting

Photography

Writing

Publishing/Editing

Public relations

Performing

Film-making

Museum work

Fashion

Arts, Media, and Entertainment Employers

Museums

Foreign news agencies

Book publishers

Newspapers

Magazines

TV networks

Radio stations

Film companies

Recording companies

Internet media companies

Advertising firms

Design firms

Arts, Media, and Entertainment Strategies

Learn about the customs and culture of the country in which your language of study is primarily spoken.

Supplement coursework with related classes such as journalism, photography, art, etc.

Spend time studying or working abroad.

Complete one or more internships in your field of interest.

Work at campus and local newspapers or radio and television stations.

Read international newspapers to keep up with developments overseas.

Listen to foreign broadcasts.

Language Services

Teaching

Curriculum development

Tutoring

Translating/Interpreting

Research

Writing

Library science

Higher Education Administration:

- International Student Support Services
- International Houses or Cultural Centers
- Student affairs
- Study abroad programming

Language Services Employers

International schools

Overseas dependents' schools

English language institutes

Professional language schools

Non-governmental organizations

Religious organizations

Colleges and universities

Third-party study abroad providers

Self-employed

Federal government agencies

Language Services Strategies

Gain practical domestic teaching experience and the necessary training or certificate to teach abroad. Teacher training should include supervised classroom experience.

Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.

Research certification options for teaching English (TESOL, CELTA, CELTC, TEFL).

Obtain certificates from schools whose graduates are hired in the international marketplace.

Consider obtaining intensive TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) training.

Volunteer to tutor children and adults in English.

Learn other languages to help understand how languages work.

Sharpen intercultural competency, sensitivity, and tolerance. Those who are successful at teaching abroad tend to be independent, flexible, and patient.

Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.

Notify local hospitals, schools, and chambers of commerce of your availability to translate or interpret for international visitors.

Get involved with student leadership experiences on campus.

Look for positions in developing nations or Asian countries. Teaching positions in Europe are very competitive.

Earn a master's degree in College Student Affairs to work with study abroad programs or with international student services.

General World Languages and Cultures Information

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, journalism, law, etc.

Consider which language and culture appeals to you most and the level of foreign language ability you will need to acquire for success in your career. Some languages will offer more job opportunities than other languages in various industries or geographic locales. Some are considered critical needs and will offer the most opportunities.

Related courses to study include geography, history, civilization, foreign relations, international law, and world economics.

Plan to attend a private language institute to learn additional languages and cultures.

Utilize a number of learning methods to develop language fluency. Combine listen and repeat drills, textbooks, audio lessons, and learning apps.

Travel to a foreign country or study abroad in international exchange programs to develop your language skills and international/intercultural competency.

Study and practice your foreign language skills by reading foreign newspapers, magazines, and books.

General World Languages and Cultures Information (Continued)

Seek opportunities to interact with international students on your campus or members of your local community. Host international students, join relevant student organizations, and participate in international campus events.

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.

Correspond with someone 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.

Participate in summer programs, co-ops, and internships to improve your skills.

Network with others in the field to learn about job opportunities.

In general, international positions are competitive and difficult to obtain. Be very proactive in developing the skills and experiences international employers seek.

Get your foot in the door in domestic positions because many international employers promote current employees into international positions.