

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### GOVERNMENT

Translation/Interpretation  
Journalism/Broadcasting  
Linguistics  
Diplomacy  
Civil Service  
Foreign Service  
Immigration/Naturalization  
Customs  
Intelligence/Law Enforcement

Federal government organizations including:  
Overseas aid agencies  
Intelligence and law enforcement agencies  
    Federal Bureau of Investigation  
    Central Intelligence Agency  
    Drug Enforcement Administration  
Department of State  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Customs Service  
Library of Congress  
Armed forces  
Voice of America

Learn federal, state and local job application procedures.  
Plan to attend a specialized school that teaches foreign languages.  
Join armed forces as a way to get experience.  
The government is one of the largest employers of people with foreign language skills.

#### ARTS, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT

Advertising  
Translation/Interpretation  
Journalism/Broadcasting  
Publishing/Editing  
Public Relations

Museums  
Foreign news agencies  
Book publishers  
TV networks  
Radio stations  
Film companies

Learn about the customs and culture of the country in which your language of study is primarily spoken.  
Spend time studying or working abroad.  
Read international newspapers to keep up with developments overseas.

#### INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Translation/Interpretation  
Banking/Finance  
Sales  
Customer Services  
Manufacturing  
Engineering/Technical  
Research  
Operations Management  
Consulting  
Imports/Exports  
Administrative Services

Banks/Financial institutions  
Import/Export companies  
Foreign firms operating in the U.S.  
American firms operating in foreign countries  
Manufacturers  
Retail stores

Supplement coursework with business classes.  
Gain experience through an internship or work abroad program.  
Find out 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 .

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

Translation/Interpretation  
Airline Services  
Management  
Booking and Reservations  
Travel Services/Guidance

Tour and excursion companies  
Travel agencies  
Hotels/Motels  
Resorts  
Restaurants  
Airlines/Airports  
Cruise lines  
Railroads  
Bus lines  
Convention Centers

Take courses in hotel/restaurant administration.  
Get a part-time job in a hotel or restaurant to gain experience.  
Spend some time abroad to learn the traditions of fine dining, wines, etc.  
Brush up on your knowledge of geography.  
Plan to attend a travel school.  
Develop office skills such as typing, organizing, and working with computers.  
Read international newspapers to keep up with overseas developments.

**INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION**

Interpretation:  
    Simultaneous  
    Consecutive  
    Conference  
    Escort/Guide  
    Judiciary  
Translation  
    Literary  
    Localization  
    Medical

Freelance  
Educational services  
Business services  
Government agencies  
Healthcare organizations  
International organizations  
Courts  
Publishers

Develop a "near perfect" knowledge of a second language. Seek out any opportunity to converse with native speakers to better learn the language.  
Gain experience through internships or volunteering.  
Learn a third language for great job opportunities.  
Develop aptitude with computers and the Internet.  
Most people who work in this field freelance.  
    Freelancers who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.  
Seek certification or accreditation from an interpretation/translation organization.

**SERVICE AND EDUCATION**

Translation/Interpretation  
Teaching  
Educational Administration  
Linguistics  
Civil Service  
Social Work  
Mission Work  
Library Science  
Health Services

Hospitals  
Religious and volunteer organizations  
International organizations  
Law enforcement agencies  
Social service agencies  
Universities/Colleges  
Pre-schools  
K-12 schools  
Professional language schools  
English language institutes  
Overseas dependents' schools

Obtain state teacher licensure for K-12 teaching.  
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.  
Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.  
Consider teaching English in another country.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

Service and Education, (continued)

- Obtain a graduate degree for college or university teaching opportunities.
- Get experience by becoming a teaching assistant or tutor.
- Be familiar with the cultural base of your language (literature, art, politics, etc.) as well as with cultural traditions.
- Specialize in an area of research.
- Plan to take both written and oral examinations to become an interpreter.
- Get a part-time job teaching English as a second language.
- Volunteer with government programs such as Peace Corps or VISTA.

**GENERAL 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, 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.  
Possible languages to study: Spanish, German, French, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic and Portuguese.
- Plan to attend a private language institute to learn additional languages and cultures.
- Travel to a foreign country or study abroad in international exchange programs 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.