

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.