

FOREIGN LANGUAGE



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. Possible languages to study: Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hebrew, Arabic, Iranian languages, Indic languages, and Turkic languages. 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. 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. Seek opportunities to interact with international students on your campus or members of your local community.

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.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Translation
- Interpretation
- Language analysis
- Linguistics
- Diplomacy
- Civil service
- Foreign service
- Immigration
- Customs
- Intelligence
- Security and protection
- Law enforcement
- Journalism/Broadcasting

Federal government organizations:

Overseas aid agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Central Intelligence Agency

Drug Enforcement Administration

Department of State

:US Customs and Border Patrol

US Citizenship and Immigration Services

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

COMMON EMPLOYERS



PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)
- [American Translators Association](#)
- [Association of International Educators](#)
- [Council on International Educational Exchange](#)
- [Foreign Policy Association](#)
- [International Association of Conference Translators](#)
- [International Federation of Translators](#)
- [International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language](#)
- [National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators](#)
- [National Council on Interpreting in Health Care](#)



STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- 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.
- 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.