WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN...

LANGUAGE STUDIES
(FRENCH, GERMAN, JAPANESE, SPANISH)

Foreign language is a branch of the language arts that involves the study of languages other than your native tongue and focuses on communication and the knowledge of a language’s culture, history, and literature. Studies in a foreign language improve your ability to communicate, develop cultural awareness and sensitivity, and expand your general knowledge.

*Taken from College Majors and Careers by Paul Phifer and the College Majors Handbook

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government/Law</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration &amp; Customs Inspector</td>
<td>Adult Literacy/ESL Teacher</td>
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<td>Foreign Services Officer</td>
<td>Private/Public School Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIA/FBI Agent</td>
<td>International Student Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paralegal/Lawyer</td>
<td>Communications/Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Translator/Interpreter</td>
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<td>Transportation Planner</td>
<td>Journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Trade Special</td>
<td>Advertising Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Manager</td>
<td>Advocacy/Non-profit</td>
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<td>Travel Agent</td>
<td>Community/Legal Advocate</td>
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<td>Airline Customer Service</td>
<td>Client Services Director</td>
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<td>Non-profit Fundraiser</td>
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</tbody>
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TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

Tour & Excursion Companies
Non-Profits
International NGOs
International Businesses
Law Enforcement

Educational Institutions
Publishers
Financial Institutions
Libraries
Social Service Agencies

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER IN

For all industries: Study abroad to further develop language skills and intercultural competency

Government/Law: Gain knowledge about government organizations as they are the largest employers of people with foreign language skills, intern at a government agency, obtain a J.D. for attorney positions or masters in public administration, public policy, or international relations for government positions

Business: Join a business-oriented student organization, earn a business minor, seek an international internship, research which companies do business with the countries with your language, be prepared to start working in the U.S. for a firm with overseas interests before working overseas

Education: Obtain teacher licensure for K-12 teaching, get experience as a teaching assistant or tutor, consider teaching English as a foreign language overseas, obtain ESL/TESOL certifications (ex. CELTA)

Communication & Language: Intern with a local newspaper or advertising agency, volunteer language skills to local community organizations, read foreign publications

Advocacy/Non-profit: Volunteer/intern for a social services agency/nonprofit organization that serves international populations; volunteer with on-campus & local cultural organizations, pursue a relevant double-major (ex. Social Work) or graduate degree (Public Administration)

RELATED WEBSITES

American Translators Association
www.atanet.org

American Association of Teachers of French
www.frenchteachers.org

American Association of Teachers of Spanish
www.aatsp.org

International Council of Management Consulting Institutes
www.icmci.org

Linguist Success
LinguistSuccess.com

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT’S RIGHT FOR ME?

ASSESS: Take a career assessment, such as the Strong Interest Inventory or MBTI, to see how your interests, values, and personality fit with majors and careers.

RESEARCH: Research the careers on this WCIDWAMI and thousands of other careers using these top career websites:


EXPLORE: Learn more about a career field of interest by job shadowing, attending a career panel, or participating in a Company Trek. Further your exploration while gaining valuable skills by completing an internship, co-op, volunteer, or research experience.

For the expanded version of this WCIDWAMI, visit career.uncc.edu/majors/language