# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

#### GOVERNMENT
- Translation/Interpretation
- Language Analysis
- Linguistics
- Diplomacy
- Civil Service
- Foreign Service
- Immigration/Naturalization
- Customs
- Intelligence
- Security and Protection
- Law Enforcement
- Journalism/Broadcasting

#### INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
- Translation/Interpretation
- Banking/Finance
- Sales
- Customer Services
- Manufacturing
- Logistics and Transportation
- Engineering/Technical
- Computer and Software Services
- Research

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### EMPLOYERS

- 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
  - Homeland Security including:
    - US Customs and Border Patrol
    - US Citizenship and Immigration Services
  - Department of Defense including:
    - 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

- Banks and financial institutions
- Import/Export companies
- International companies including:
  - Foreign firms operating in the US
  - US firms operating in foreign countries
- Manufacturers
- Retail stores
- Environmental firms
- Consulting agencies

### 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.

- 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.
### Areas

#### Industry and Commerce Continued
- Operations Management
- Consulting
- Importing/Exporting
- Administrative Services
- Advertising and Marketing
- Human Resources
- Law

#### Travel and Tourism
- Translation/Interpretation
- Airline Services
- Management
- Booking and Reservations
- Travel Services/Guidance
- Ecotourism

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<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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- 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.
Develop aptitude with computers and the Internet. Interpreters and translators who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.

Develop skills in negotiation.

Learn to work well under stress.

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

**SERVICE AND EDUCATION**

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<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
<td>K-12 schools, public and private</td>
<td>Obtain state teacher licensure for K-12 teaching.</td>
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<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Universities/Colleges</td>
<td>Earn a graduate degree for college or university teaching opportunities.</td>
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<td>Tutoring</td>
<td>Pre-schools</td>
<td>Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.</td>
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<td>Professional language schools</td>
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<td>Student Affairs</td>
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<td>Study Abroad Programs</td>
<td>Overseas dependents' schools</td>
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<td>Linguistics</td>
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<td>Nonprofit or Public Interest Law</td>
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**INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION CONTINUED**

Develop aptitude with computers and the Internet. Interpreters and translators who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.

Develop skills in negotiation.

Learn to work well under stress.

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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, journalism, law, etc.

• Choose which language and culture appeals to you most. Consider 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. Some languages will offer more job opportunities than other languages in various industries or geographic locales.

• 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.

• 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. 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 ones.

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