

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Translation/Interpretation
Teaching
Journalism/Broadcasting
Linguistics
Diplomacy
Civil Service
Foreign Service
Immigration/Naturalization
Armed Forces
Customs

Overseas dependents' schools
Overseas aid agencies
Intelligence and law enforcement agencies
The Foreign Service
Armed forces
Library of Congress
United Nations
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.

ARTS, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT

Advertising
Translation/Interpretation
Journalism/Broadcasting
Publishing/Editing

Museums
Foreign news agencies
Book publishers
Hotels, motels, restaurants
TV networks/Radio stations
Film companies

Learn about the customs and culture of the country in which your language of study is primarily spoken, possibly by spending time in that country.
Read international newspapers to keep up with developments overseas.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Translation/Interpretation
Customs
Banking
Secretarial Services
Sales/Customer Services
Manufacturing
Market Research
Consulting
Imports/Exports

Banks, finance-related institutions
Import/Export companies
Foreign firms operating in the U.S.
American firms operating in foreign countries
Manufacturers
Retail/Department stores

Find out which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.
Consult resources such as the Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the U.S., Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries, and American Register of Exporters and Importers.
Supplement coursework with business classes.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Translation/Interpretation
Airline Services
Hospitality Industry

Tour companies
Travel agencies
Hotels, motels, restaurants
Airlines/Airports
Cruise lines

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.
Contact airline headquarters or call the Future Aviation Professionals of America (1-800-JET-JOBS) to find employment opportunities.
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.

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL

Computer Science
Engineering
Law
Medicine
Library Science

Corporate and research libraries
School and public libraries
Hospitals/Laboratories
Foreign firms operating in the U.S.
American firms operating in foreign countries

Develop good oral and written communication skills.
Look into M.L.S. Programs (Master's degree in library science).
Develop clerical skills such as typing and organizing.
Work on computer skills.
Read newspapers and magazines to keep up with world events.

SERVICE AND EDUCATION

Translation/Interpretation
Teaching
Educational Administration
Linguistics
Civil Service
Social 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

Learn state certification process for 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.
Investigate teaching English in another country.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

Service and Education, Continued

- Plan to get a graduate degree to teach in colleges or universities.
- Get experience by becoming a teaching assistant or teacher's aide.
- 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 the ability to assist them in a different career field.
- 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 Berlitz School, a school that teaches every foreign language and that is located all over the world, or the Latin American Institute or the School of Languages and Linguistics in Washington, D.C.
- 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 keep up 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 find out about job opportunities.
- Look through newspaper want-ads to get an idea of jobs in which knowledge of a foreign language is useful.