

# Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

## What can I do with my French/German/Spanish degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT

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

Overseas dependents' school  
Overseas aid agencies  
Intelligence and law enforcement agencies  
Foreign Service  
Armed forces  
Library of Congress  
United Nations  
Voice of America  
National Park Services

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. Shadow an employee.

#### ARTS, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT

Advertising  
Translation/Interpretation  
Journalism/Broadcasting  
Publishing/Editing

Museums  
Foreign news agencies  
Book publishers  
Motels, hotels, restaurants  
TV networks/Radio stations  
Film

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.

#### 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.  
Read international newspapers

## SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL

Computer Science  
Engineering  
Law  
Library Science/Information Management

Corporations  
Foreign firms operating in the U.S.  
U.S. Firms operating abroad; multi-nationals  
Corporate libraries; School and public libraries

Develop good oral and written communication skills  
Work on technical skills, specialized vocabulary  
Train as a paralegal  
Looks into M.L.S, advanced degrees in Library Science

## 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 skills in English language  
Notify local hospitals, schools and chambers of commerce of  
your availability to translate or interpret  
Minor or double major in another subject that you could teach.  
Investigate teaching English in another country.  
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 programs such as CNNC, Peace Corp 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. Many people with foreign language ability use the ability to assist them in a different career field.
- Related courses to study include geography, history, civilization, IGS, international law, social justice and world economics.
- Decide and choose which language is necessary for your career. Decide the level of language ability you will need to acquire for success in your career.
- Travel to a foreign country or study abroad in international exchange programs to learn different cultures.
- **Join UNCG Global Village;** participate in cultural activities
- 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.
- Volunteer with CNNC and their efforts (cnncc.uncg.edu)!
- 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 language is useful.
- Watch the news in other languages online.

Adapted from the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville by UNCG  
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Check out related websites including: <http://www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm>