



Career Options in FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The world is tied together by many bonds--economic, diplomatic and human--and because of technological advances in transportation and communication, an increasing number of Americans rely on the knowledge of foreign language. Students that major in any type of foreign language and literature field are increasing their desirability in the work force. Employment possibilities for foreign language majors include the many positions available to humanities students in any field. For bilingual students, there are job openings in foreign countries as well as in the United States. Graduates have found jobs in teaching, translating, foreign diplomacy, foreign correspondence, travel agencies, international airlines, import-export work, international corporations, and in agencies of the federal government. Foreign language competence is an asset to urban workers in social work, public health, and law enforcement. While graduates with skills and backgrounds only in foreign languages may encounter keen competition for jobs, as a supplement to other skills the knowledge of a foreign language is a valuable professional commodity.

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of occupations related to this major. Specific requirements based on education level for each occupation may vary. For additional information and assistance, please speak with a Career Center Consultant.

Import-Export Agent
Overseas Personnel Manager
Purchasing Agent/Buyer
Trade Analyst
Social Worker
Free-Lance Conference Interpreters
Multi-Lingual Port Receptionist

Court Reporter
Immigration/Customs Inspector
Tour Guide
Travel Guide
College Professor/Lecturer
Secondary Education Teacher

Marketing Coordinator
Copywriter
Executive Assistant
Air Traffic Assistant
Escort Interpreters
Literary Translator
Scientific Translator

SAMPLE WORK SETTINGS:

Colleges and Universities
Business and Industry
Non-profit Organizations
Fundraising Firms

State/Federal Government
Courtrooms
Hospitals
Import/Export Companies

Book and Journal Publishers
Hotels & Motels
Radio Stations
International Governments

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE MAJORS:

Curiosity and creativity
Oral and written communication
Knowledge of world events
Speaking in groups
Evaluating results

Problem solving
Team-worker
Organizational skills
Clarifying ideas
Gathering information

Information handling
Innovative talents
People skills
Interpreting data
Assessing needs

SAMPLE GW RESOURCES:

GW CAREER CENTER RESOURCES: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

GWork: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Career Search: <http://careersearch.net>

GW DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION:

Classical & Semitic Languages & Literatures: <http://www.gwu.edu/~csll>

East Asian Language & Literature: <http://www.gwu.edu/~eall/>

Romance, German, and Slavic Languages and Literatures: <http://www.gwu.edu/~rgsll/>

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

Career Planning Resources:

International Careers Page: http://www.duke.edu/~lpmaskel/international_page.html

International Career Resources: http://www.duke.edu/~lpmaskel/intl_general.html

Hispanic Careers and Education: <http://www.saludos.com/>

Department of State Foreign Language Careers: <http://www.careers.state.gov/officer/index.html>

Best Bets for Working Abroad: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prospective/iopother/work.shtml>

Job Search Resources:

International Career Employment Center: <http://www.internationaljobs.org/>

Riley Guide for International Job Opportunities: <http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>

Bilingual Jobs: <http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>

Overseas Jobs: <http://www.overseasjobs.com>

World Hire Online: <http://www.hire.com>

World Wide Employment Office: <http://www.employmentoffice.net>

Global Career Center: <http://www.globalcareercenter.com>

Professional Organizations & Associations:

American Translators Association: <http://www.atanet.org/>

International Association for Language Learning Technology: <http://iall.net>

National Association for Bilingual Education: <http://nabe.org>

Modern Language Association: <http://www.mla.org/>

American Association for Applied Linguistics: <http://www.aal.org/>

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: <http://www.actfl.org/>

American Association of Teachers of French: <http://www.frenchteachers.org>

Association of Departments of Foreign Languages: <http://www.adfl.org/>

Council on International Cultural Exchange: <http://www.ciee.org>

Modern Language Association of America: <http://www.acls.org/mla.htm>

National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education: <http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/>

National Council for Languages and International Studies: <http://www.languagepolicy.org>

Linguistic Society of America: <http://www.lsadc.org/>

Developed by:

The George Washington University Career Center

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Last Revised: 2/2008