



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAJORS

SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAJOR

Cross-Cultural

- Understanding of cultural differences
- Knowledge of culturally specific behaviors, customs, and values
- Language competency for speaking, writing, reading, and listening
- Appreciation of diversity
- Sensitivity to cultural issues
- Awareness of differences in cultural perspectives
- Global experience
- Ability to adjust to new environments and interact with people from different backgrounds

Analytical

- Critical thinking
- Analyzing and comparing cultures
- Create and clarify ideas
- Define complex problems

- Weigh values and assess needs
- Conduct research

Organizational

- Attention to detail/good observation skills
- Ability to instruct/motivate
- Generate innovative ideas and solutions
- Able to work cooperatively and to coordinate work with others
- Flexible in learning and thinking
- Willingness to take risks

Communication

- Clear/concise writing
- Ability to persuade/influence
- Effective use of language
- Listen, clarify and explain effectively
- Summarize content both written and oral
- Write and present information clearly

POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Linguist
- Language Specialist
- Literary Translator
- Judicial Interpreter/Translator
- Teacher
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher
- Import/Export Agent
- Hotel Manager
- Travel Agent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Passport Examiner
- Writer/Editor
- International Visitor Exchange Specialist
- Border Patrol Agent
- Coordinator of International Students
- Director of Study Abroad Programs
- International Education Director
- Visiting Student Counselor
- Market Analyst
- Pharmaceutical Representative
- Tour Director
- International Banking Loan Officer
- Training and Development Specialist

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- Professional Language Schools
- Publishers
- Hospitals
- Federal Government Agencies
- State and Local Governments
- Translation Agencies
- Import/Export Firms
- Elementary/Secondary Schools
- Colleges/Universities
- State Department
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Bureau of International Information Programs
- Voice of America
- Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Department of Defense
- Peace Corps
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Department of Justice
- Environmental Firms
- Sports Organizations
- Advertising Agencies
- Public Relations Firms
- Magazines/Newspapers/Radio Stations
- Manufacturing Firms
- Hotels

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association- <https://www.mla.org>

American Association of Applied Linguistics-<http://www.aaal.org/>

Network of Business Language Educators-<https://nble.org/>

O*Net- <http://www.onetonline.org/>

Sources: The College Majors Handbook (Fogg, Harrington, & Harrington, 2012)