



Careers with Modern Languages

Your knowledge of Modern Languages can be the focus of your career or can be an important element that gives you an important competitive edge in many other careers. If you already speak another language other than English, employers will normally not require a formal qualification in that language, but make sure that you would be confident using your language skills in a formal business or academic setting.

Careers that focus on Modern Languages

Translator/Interpreter

Translators work with the written word, whereas interpreters translate spoken language. Most successful translators and interpreters have studied a Modern Languages degree in one or more languages and then a Masters in Translation and/or Interpreting, but there are many other pathways into this career. You are most likely to work as a freelancer in this career, but could work for an international organization, such as the United Nations or the European Union. You can combine this career with a strong passion in your life – for example, writing the English subtitles for interviews with football managers after international games.

Institute of Translation and Interpreting: <https://www.itl.org.uk/>

Chartered Institute of Linguists: <https://www.ciol.org.uk/>

United Nations: <https://languagecareers.un.org>

Language Analyst

A language analyst uses their knowledge of foreign languages and of the culture, history and society where those languages are spoken to research, translate and write reports on foreign language material (written or spoken). You could be working in this role for the security services of the Government of your country or, for example, for a financial institution. Non-Western European languages tend to be more in demand in these roles but some employers will provide teaching for you to learn the language(s) they need – they are most interested in finding linguists with transferable skills.

GCHQ: <https://www.gchq-careers.co.uk/departments/language-analysts.html>

Secret Intelligence Service: <https://www.sis.gov.uk/language-specialist.html>

RAF: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/intelligence/intelligence-analyst-linguist>

Language Teacher

As well as teaching modern foreign languages in a secondary school or sixth form college, there are many other opportunities, such as teaching adults in language schools, delivering supplementary foreign language courses in university language centres. Because you understand how languages 'work', you could also teach English as a Foreign Language or even run an English Language School in the country of the language you have studied.

As Modern Languages is a currently shortage subject in UK schools, there are currently generous bursaries for the year-long PGCE course for undergraduates with degrees in Modern Languages

Department of Education: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

Association for Language Learning: <https://www.all-languages.org.uk/>

International House: <https://ihworld.com/>

Examples of careers that benefit from knowledge of Modern Languages

Journalist

BBC World Service: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/wscareers>

National Council for the Training of Journalists: <https://www.nctj.com/>

Civil Servant

Civil Service Fast Stream: <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/>

Diplomatic Service: <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/diplomatic-service/index.html>

International aid/development worker

Human Rights Careers: <http://www.humanrightscareers.com/>

International Red Cross: <https://careers.icrc.org/>

Marketing executive

The Chartered Institute of Marketing: <https://www.cim.co.uk/qualifications/get-into-marketing/>

Lawyer

The Law Society: <https://communities.lawsociety.org.uk/international/>

European Union: (lawyer-linguist) https://epso.europa.eu/career-profiles/law_en

