# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNMENT</strong></td>
<td>Federal government organizations including: Overseas aid agencies</td>
<td>The government is one of the largest employers of people with foreign language skills. Consider studying a critical need language for the greatest number of opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
<td>Intelligence and law enforcement agencies: Federal Bureau of Investigation Central Intelligence Agency Drug Enforcement Administration</td>
<td>Complete an internship with a federal agency and maintain a high GPA to be a more competitive candidate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Department of Defense: US Armed Forces National Guard National Security Agency</td>
<td>Review special hiring authorizations to be hired and to advance more quickly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diplomacy</td>
<td>Department of Commerce Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
<td>Participate in campus organizations and activities that promote interaction with international students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil service</td>
<td>Peace Corps, VISTA, Americorps</td>
<td>Attend a specialized school that teaches foreign languages for additional training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign service</td>
<td>Library of Congress Voice of America</td>
<td>Live abroad and gain knowledge of politics and economics to prepare for a career in this field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration/Naturalization</td>
<td>US District Courts United Nations</td>
<td>Increase knowledge of geography, history, and international affairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Join the armed forces as a way to get experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities.</td>
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<td>Security and protection</td>
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<td>Law enforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism/Broadcasting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE</strong></td>
<td>Banks and financial institutions</td>
<td>Supplement coursework with business classes or earn a business minor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
<td>Import/Export companies</td>
<td>Develop international competency by living and working abroad and by interacting with international students on campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banking/Finance</td>
<td>International companies including: Foreign firms operating in the US US firms operating in foreign countries</td>
<td>Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Manufacturers: Automobile Retail stores Environmental firms Consulting agencies</td>
<td>Research which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.</td>
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<td>Customer services</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Logistics and transportation/Supply chain mgmt.</td>
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<td>Engineering/Technical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer and software services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>AREAS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CONTINUED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations management</td>
<td>Sports organizations</td>
<td>Be prepared to start in a position in the US working for a firm with an overseas presence. Very few entry level positions are available in international business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Telecommunications companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Importing/Exporting</td>
<td>Computer and software firms</td>
<td>Some jobs will require graduate degrees (e.g., business, law, etc.).</td>
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<td>Administrative services</td>
<td>Advertising agencies</td>
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<td>Advertising and marketing</td>
<td>Professional associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Law firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRAVEL AND TOURISM</strong></td>
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<td>Take courses in hotel/restaurant administration or recreation and tourism management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
<td>Tour and excursion companies</td>
<td>Get a part-time job in a hotel or restaurant to gain experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airline services</td>
<td>Travel agencies</td>
<td>Spend time abroad to learn about various cultures and traditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Hotels/Motels</td>
<td>Brush up on your knowledge of geography.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booking and reservations</td>
<td>Resorts</td>
<td>Consider attending a travel and tourism school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel services/Guidance</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>Develop office management and technology skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecotourism</td>
<td>Airlines/Airports</td>
<td>Maintain a travel blog.</td>
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<td>Cruise lines</td>
<td>Show attention to detail.</td>
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<td>Railroads</td>
<td>Read international newspapers to keep up with overseas developments.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bus lines</td>
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<td>Car rental agencies</td>
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<td>Convention centers</td>
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<td>Chambers of commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION</strong></td>
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<td>Develop fluency in a second language. Seek out any opportunity to converse with native speakers to better learn the language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpretation (Simultaneous and consecutive)</td>
<td>Freelance</td>
<td>Learn a third language for increased job opportunities. Some languages such as Middle Eastern or Asian ones are in more demand than others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Educational services</td>
<td>Gain experience through internships or volunteering.</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
<td>Business services</td>
<td>Seek certification or accreditation from an interpretation/translation organization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escort/Guide</td>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>Being bilingual does not automatically qualify one to serve as an interpreter or translator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judiciary (Court)</td>
<td>Healthcare organizations</td>
<td>Learn to listen to one language while speaking another at the same time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>International organizations</td>
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<td>Legal</td>
<td>Nonprofit and social service organizations</td>
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<td>Literary</td>
<td>Courts</td>
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<td>Localization</td>
<td>Publishers</td>
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<td>Machine</td>
<td>Libraries</td>
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<td>Medical</td>
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<td>Technical</td>
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<td>Lexicography</td>
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<td>Steganography</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION CONTINUED</td>
<td>K-12 schools, public and private</td>
<td>Gain experience with computers and relevant software programs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Universities/Colleges</td>
<td>Interpreters and translators who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pre-schools</td>
<td>Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.</td>
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<td>Professional language schools</td>
<td>Most people who work in this field freelance. Show language expertise, initiative, and motivation as this is a very competitive field.</td>
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<td>English language institutes</td>
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<td>Overseas dependents' schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foreign study exchange programs</td>
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<td>Libraries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adult education programs</td>
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<td>Religious and volunteer organizations</td>
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<td>International organizations</td>
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<td>Law enforcement agencies</td>
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<td>Social service agencies</td>
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<td>Nonprofit organizations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<td>SERVICE AND EDUCATION</td>
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<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
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<td>Teaching</td>
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<td>Tutoring</td>
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<td>Educational administration:</td>
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<td>Student affairs</td>
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<td>Study abroad programs</td>
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<td>International houses or cultural centers</td>
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<td>International student services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
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<td>Civil service</td>
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<td>Social work</td>
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<td>Mission work</td>
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<td>Library science</td>
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<td>Health services</td>
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<td>Counseling</td>
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<td>Nonprofit or public interest law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtain state teacher licensure for K-12 teaching.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earn a graduate degree for college or university teaching opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.</td>
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<td>Get experience as a teaching assistant or tutor.</td>
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<td>Become familiar with the cultural base of your language (literature, art, politics, etc.) as well as with cultural traditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consider teaching English as a foreign language (overseas). Research courses and certifications for teaching English to non-native speakers.</td>
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<td>Volunteer with government programs such as VISTA or community programs such as ESL classes.</td>
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<td>Work abroad through volunteer programs or missions.</td>
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<td>Plan to take both written and oral examinations to become an interpreter.</td>
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<td>Notify local hospitals, schools, and chambers of commerce of your availability to translate or interpret for international visitors.</td>
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<td>Earn a graduate degree in a field of specialty (e.g. Student affairs administration, counseling, law, etc.).</td>
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### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Supplement the foreign language, preferably one that requires a high degree of technical skill. Most people with foreign language ability use those skills to assist in a different career field such as business, education, journalism, law, etc.
- Consider which language and culture appeals to you most and the level of foreign language ability you will need to acquire for success in your career.
- Possible languages to study (e.g., Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hebrew, Arabic, Iranian languages, Indic languages, Turkic languages, etc.). Some languages will offer more job opportunities than other languages in various industries or geographic locales. Some are considered critical needs and will offer the most opportunities.
- Study related or adjacent courses (e.g., geography, history, civilization, foreign relations, international law, world economics, etc.).
- Attend a private language institute to learn additional languages and cultures.
- Utilize a number of learning methods to develop language fluency. Combine listen and repeat drills, textbooks, audio lessons, and learning apps.
- Travel to a foreign country or study abroad in international exchange programs to develop your language skills and international/intercultural competency.
- Study and practice your foreign language skills by reading foreign newspapers, magazines, and books.
- Seek opportunities to interact with international students on your campus or members of your local community. Host international students, join relevant student organizations, and participate in international campus events.
- Watch foreign movies and listen to foreign broadcasts to maintain your fluency.
- Volunteer your language skills to churches, community organizations, and programs that work with people who speak your target language.
- Correspond with someone from a foreign country.
- Contact professional associations and read their publications to learn about job opportunities.
- Research job postings on the Internet to get an idea of jobs in which knowledge of a foreign language is useful.
- Participate in summer programs, co-ops, and internships to improve your skills.
- Network with others in the field to learn about job opportunities.
- Obtaining international positions is competitive and difficult. Be proactive in developing the skills and experiences international employers seek.
- Get your foot in the door in domestic positions because many international employers promote current employees into international positions.

### AREAS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ARTS, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation/Interpretation</td>
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<td>Journalism/Broadcasting</td>
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<td>Photography</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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<td>Publishing/Editing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film making</td>
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<td>Museum work</td>
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<td>Fashion</td>
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<tr>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museums</td>
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<td>Foreign news agencies</td>
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<td>Book publishers</td>
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<td>Newspapers</td>
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<td>Magazines</td>
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<td>TV networks</td>
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<td>Radio stations</td>
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<td>Film companies</td>
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<td>Recording companies</td>
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<td>Internet media companies</td>
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<td>Advertising firms</td>
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<td>Design firms</td>
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</table>

### STRATEGIES AREAS EMPLOYERS

- Learn about the customs and culture of the country in which your language of study is primarily spoken.
- Supplement coursework with related classes (e.g., journalism, photography, art, etc.).
- Spend time studying or working abroad.
- Complete one or more internships in your field of interest.
- Work at campus and local newspapers or radio and television stations.
- Read international newspapers to keep up with developments overseas.
- Listen to foreign broadcasts.