

# Careers for Modern Linguists

Careers  
Service



## Introduction

At the time of writing it is not clear how Brexit may impact on recruitment, particularly in European institutions. This sheet should be used in conjunction with the [Careers Service website](#)

## What jobs do Modern Languages graduates do?

Modern Languages graduates find employment in business, UK and European government, engineering, financial services, media, technology, travel and tourism, and the voluntary and charitable sector.

There are a small number of jobs where languages are the main requirement e.g. Interpreter, Translator, Teacher. There are other jobs such as working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), in the UK Government in European related policy areas or in the European Institutions, as well as the Travel and Tourism industry, where your language skills will be useful.

The Civil Service has recently increased recruitment with regards to UK's exit from the European Union. However, there are many more roles where languages are a complementary rather than a key skill.

Businesses and other organisations require people to work across international offices or with non-English speaking customers or clients

via business functions like marketing, sales, supply chain management, customer support or consulting, so languages, amongst other skills, will be valued. Roles that require strong communication skills like PR, Events Management, Media and Lobbying might also suit the linguist especially where the business is focused outside of the UK. For a general overview [read this guide](#).

## What do Bath ESML graduates do?

Every year we collect information on what Bath graduates are doing approximately six months after graduation. For the full details, [click here](#).

### Typical jobs over the past couple of years have included:

*Accountant, Advertising Account Manager, Business Consultant, Communications Coordinator, Digital Marketing Specialist, English Languages Teacher, Event Manager, Graduate Hotel Management Trainee, HR Administrator, Investment Banking Analyst, International Sales Co-ordinator, Bi-lingual IT Analyst, Language Teacher (non-UK), Marketing Analyst, Marketing Manager, Publishing Editor, Recruitment Consultant, Sales Co-ordinator, Starting own Business, Assistant Teacher, Technology Risk Consultant.*

### Postgraduate courses taken by past ESML graduates have included:

International Management, Interpreting & Translating, International Relations, Further study in languages, European Studies, PGCE (Teaching).  
GDL: Law

### Convention de Stage – legal document for internships only

In order to complete an internship in France, Belgium or Spain you need to have student status. The recruiter will ask you for a convention de stage or convenio de colaboración which is a legal document signed by the University to confirm you are still registered as a student with us and that we will take legal liability for you. Please contact the faculty placements team for more information on how to create such a document. The University is unable to provide this document for graduates of the University), as well as advise graduates to apply for graduate positions rather than internships in these countries.

### Be aware of your employability

Thinking about what you want to do isn't just about looking at what other people have done or what careers linguists can go into. You also need to think about yourself.

You've got loads of skills which employers want: high level ability to communicate, working with others, organising and taking responsibility, adaptability, flexibility and problem solving.

Your course, vacation work, year abroad, interests and achievements will or have all contributed towards developing these and other skills.

These skills, along with the ability to manage your career and successfully apply for jobs and courses, are the key to your future success.

To find out more about developing your employability [check our website](#).

### Articulate your skills

Articulating the value of your degree is as important as being able to talk about skills you have gained from your year abroad, work experience and extra-curricular activities. As a Modern Languages graduate you will have:

- A high level of intellectual and linguistic skills. Employers will value your analytical and critical skills drawn from your study of politics and culture, as well as linguistic contexts, history, geography, social or economic structures.
- An appreciation of international diversity and cross-cultural connectedness will enhance your ability to communicate and to work creatively and flexibly with others, especially within organisations which recruit widely and have international customers and clients. Your curiosity and openness towards other cultures, as well as your experience of them, makes you self-reliant, adaptable and flexible.
- Languages are a medium of understanding, communication and expression which will mean you are likely to be successful at working in teams and in roles which require a high level of communication and interpersonal skills.

### Improve your commercial awareness

Modern Languages students at Bath tend to underrate their capabilities to get into business careers when they compare themselves with other students on campus such as those taking management subjects. Your biggest gap may be your commercial awareness, but you can work on this. Commercial awareness is an understanding of what makes an organisation successful and the factors that influence success.

You can develop your knowledge by:

- Reading newspapers, journals (e.g. Economist) and specialist press for the sector. Check Sunday papers for a summary of the week's news. [Remember that political issues have an impact on the commercial world too.](#)
- Check the [BBC website](#) for business/money related content on TV and radio, or follow their key correspondents on social media. Alternatively use [Box of Broadcasts](#) which is a shared online off-air TV and radio recording service for UK higher and further education institutions. The University subscribes to this.
- A basic business textbook – check the University library.
- Downloadable [graduate employer research check sheet](#)
- Ask employers at presentations and careers fairs what issues their businesses are facing.
- Check out relevant professional bodies or associations related to your sector of interest. Can you join? What news items do they have on their website?
- Think about your own work experience. What did you learn about the business you worked in? Did it do well, if so why? How could it have improved? What was the management like? How effective was it?

Sometimes there are commercial awareness skills training sessions on the Careers Service Skills Development Programme. There are also a number of societies within the SU with a business focus that you could get involved in or you could try some of the SU Enterprise activities.

## I want to work abroad

In theory you can work anywhere in the world however, in practice, so much will depend on certain factors such as the local employment market, different educational requirements, work permits and immigration procedures. Having said that, many businesses are global and so there are often chances to work overseas by joining an international company through your own country office. There are some companies that offer European Graduate Schemes which involve starting your job outside the UK straight away. Some past examples of these include:

- [Berenberg Bank International Graduate Programme](#)
- [Cargill European Graduate Programme](#)
- [DS Smith Packaging Graduate Programme](#)
- [Diageo Global Graduate Programme](#)
- [E.ON Graduate Program](#)
- [Goodyear Dunlop European Graduate Programme](#)
- [Heineken International Graduate Programme](#)
- [INEOS Commercial Graduate Programme](#)
- [Inter-Continental Hotels European Graduate Programme](#)
- [Kraft Heinz](#)
- [Mars Graduate Programme](#)
- [Nestle International Programmes](#)
- [Novo Nordisk various Global and European Grad Schemes](#)
- [Red Bull European Graduate Programme](#)
- [TJX Europe \(TKMaxx\) European Graduate Programme](#)
- [TUI Group International Leadership Programme](#)
- [3i Graduate Programme](#)

You'll have to check availability of these yourself as this is based on research from past years of recruitment. You could also google "European Graduate Programme".

If you want to work in a particular country then you will still have to work out what kind of role would interest you and then research opportunities within that country.

Use the Careers Service website section on [Working internationally](#) for resources, or check out [Prospects](#) and [TargetJobs](#) for their resources.

## Useful websites for linguists

### Translating and interpreting

Though the terms interpreting and translating are often used interchangeably, these professions are different. There are many differences between the training, skills, and talents needed for each so use some of the resources listed here to find out more. The University of Bath has internationally recognised postgraduate courses in these areas.

- [MA Interpreting and Translating and MA Translation and Professional Language Skills, University of Bath](#)
- [The Association of Translation Companies](#) gives a listing of translation companies.
- [The Chartered Institute of Linguists](#) offers vacancy listing and info on qualifications available.
- [Institute of Translation and Interpreting](#) – see Professional Development careers information.
- [International Association of Conference Interpreters](#) offers careers info, lists of courses.
- [EU Careers for Language Specialists](#)

### Language assistants

- [British Council Language Assistants](#).

### Government

- [Civil Service Fast Streams](#) usually open at the end of September. Check out their social media wall for interviews with current fast streamers and application tips.

- Other routes GCHQ (Language & Culture Specialists), Mi5 (Language Intelligence Analysts) and Mi6 (Language Specialists) UK citizens only
- [FCO](#) is mainly Fast Stream.
- [Non Fast Stream jobs for graduates](#). Many good opportunities to work at a graduate level.
- [Careers Blogs](#) on the Civil Service.
- There are a variety of graduate roles and traineeships within the EU. Graduate roles are open to EU citizens only whilst some traineeships are also open to non-EU citizens. See an overview of the roles and more about recruitment [here](#) (Students and Graduates).

### Teaching in schools and HE

- [The Department of Education](#)
- [TARGET postgrad](#)
- [An academic career](#)

### Recruitment agencies

There are a number of specialist recruitment agencies for linguists. Here are a few which have been around for a while but are not recommendations and not a complete list. For more Google “language recruitment agencies”. Advice on using recruitment agencies [is on our blog](#)

- [iAgora](#) international jobs and internships
- [ABL](#) formerly (Appointments Bi-Language)
- [Bilingual People](#)
- [Corinium Language Associates](#)
- [Euro London Appointments](#)
- [French Recruitment](#) helps students with fluency in French to find a job at the end of their studies in the UK.
- [The Language Business](#)
- [The Language Export Centre](#)
- [Lingua-jobs](#)
- [Multilingual Vacancies](#)
- [Top Language Jobs](#)  
[www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk](http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk)

## Further Resources

See also the following Careers Service helpsheets:

- [Careers in international development, organisations and relations](#)
- [Careers in Politics, including working in Westminster and Europe](#)
- [Careers in Social policy, social sciences and sociology](#)
- [Careers in the charity sector](#)

Check for more resources in [MyFuture](#).

Workshops are run by Careers Advisers and employers. They are advertised in [MyFuture](#).

Sign up to our [Careers Perspectives blog](#) which give the latest information on all career areas including applications.

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