



*Your Career with
an Arts Degree*

Careers with Languages



Language graduates and the employment market

Languages students have excellent communication skills and broad cultural awareness, usually backed up with the experience gained on a year abroad. Graduates with a good command of modern languages are sought after for numerous roles in a variety of organisations and sectors. Language skills are particularly useful when combined with expertise in other fields and often provide that extra edge that makes a graduate stand out.

Skills acquired with a degree in Languages include:

- Excellent oral communication skills
- The ability to manage time effectively, work alone but also as part of a team
- Provide excellent customer service
- Have excellent written communication skills, both in English and other chosen language
- An understanding of managing one's own learning
- The ability to perform multiple tasks and to problem-solve
- Sensitivity to different cultures and can deal with new situations
- IT, information retrieval and presentation skills
- Analytic ability and numeracy skills

Source: "Transferable Skills in Third-Level Modern Languages Curricula" (2003)- a HEA funded project.



Typical jobs for Language graduates...

Language graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Language graduates:

*Language Assistant • Interpreter • Teacher • TEFL Teacher
Executive/Admin Officer in Civil Service • Overseas Sales Executive
Hotel Manager • Travel Agent • Diplomat • Customer Support
Publishing • Marketing Executive • Bilingual Secretary*

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

Career Destinations of our Language Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Language graduates took up after graduation:

*Language Assistant Programme, Quebec
Self Employed Community Interpreter, Lionbridge Translation
Accountancy Section – using French, Chase International Bank Dublin
English Teacher, Alfonso XIII Primary School – Spain
Customer Service – German language section, SAP, Parkmore Galway
Lectrice d'anglais, Aix-Marseille Universite – France*

Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey

Boosting your employability with Languages

Language students pursue a variety of careers and can work in business, education, public service at national and European levels, Charities and international organisations, PR companies, advertising and marketing, market research companies, management consultants, publishers, hotels, financial services and in teaching.

All these careers require excellent communication skills, the skills of research, analysis and writing, for which a degree with languages is excellent preparation.

Work experience is also a key issue and any experience you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. Volunteering is also an excellent way of adding experience to your CV.

The Career Development Centre at NUI Galway has some reference books that may help you find work experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job search and may be available to reference in the Careers library.



What Postgraduate Courses do Language Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Language graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

- MA/HDip (Conference Interpreting)
- Higher Diploma (Education)
- MA (Translation Studies)
- LLM
- MA (Advanced Language Skills)
- HDip (Business Studies)



Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Languages graduates include:

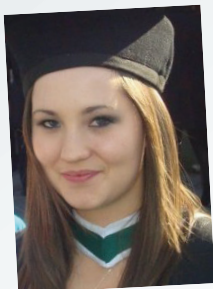
- MA (Conference Interpreting), Uni Westminster before registering as freelance interpreter with European institute
- MSc (Sustainable Development), University of Uppsala-Sweden
- MA (Translation Studies), DCU
- MA (Journalism), DCU
- MA (Linguistics), UCC
- PGDE (Primary Modern Foreign Languages), UK
- MA (French Literature), Bordeaux
- MA in Humanitarian Action, Uni Spain
- HDip in Primary Education, Hibernia College

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

www.postgradireland.com also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

What our students say...



Ruth Gilroy
Bachelor of Arts, German and Spanish

I qualified in both Spanish and German and subsequently did the PGDE- Post Graduate Diploma in Education. I was then fortunate enough to find a job teaching English and German in a secondary school in Galway.

Arts allowed me to study what I enjoyed most in secondary school - languages and languages alone. I was not interested in studying languages with other courses such as 'Law' or 'Business', for example. The subjects at university level are much broader and Arts gave me an insight into different aspects of German and Spanish language and culture, including film, literature, poetry, geography and history among others. The Erasmus Programme enabled me to achieve a certain level of fluency that is necessary for any role with languages.

I achieved a good level of fluency in both languages, I became more cultured and I also became active in German drama by way of the German society. Since having received my Arts degree from NUI Galway, I have never been unemployed and have proven to be a desired candidate for many roles including and not limited to 'Accounts Payable with languages', 'Customer Service Representative with languages', 'Market Research with languages' and teaching.

Where can I find out more?

The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in Languages.

EUROPE

Using your language skills: www.prospects.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/Using_your_language_skills/p!empgbXb
Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research www.cilt.org.uk
www.languageswork.co.uk
www.eurobrussels.com (jobs in European Affairs)
www.academicjobseu.com
http://www.skillsireland.ie/media/EGFSB22062012-Key_Skills_for_Enterprise_to_Trade_Internationally.pdf
<http://www.ria.ie/getmedia/b4da3328-4395-4f1f-99cf-e0e013162001/RIA-National-Languages-Strategy.pdf.aspx>

ABROAD

Modern Languages Association www.mla.org/
www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm
www.languagejobs.org/



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