

Department of Modern Languages



University of
Northampton



Imagine being able to go to another country and be able to understand a map, talk to a cab driver, or even discuss a poem. *Imagine* making connections with people across the barriers of language, culture, and history. *Imagine* the ways your personality and life might change when you meet and communicate with people whose cultural background differs from yours. *Imagine* the difference you might make in the lives of others, inside the US and out, who are reaching out across the world to you. *Imagine* the difference those people might make to you.

Many students come to college looking for classes that will help them build a successful and interesting careers as teachers, business people, communicators, scientists, etc. Others want to grow intellectually, to change the world, or to change themselves. Language and culture study in the Department of Modern Languages at UNI offers majors, minors, and elective courses that meet all those needs, and language programs in French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and other languages. Below are resources designed to help you decide what studying another language might do for you.

- **Can I get a job if I major or minor in a language?** Of course you can; there's a list of possibilities ; you might also want to check out or the UNI pages.
- **But which language should I study?** UNI offers study in Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and occasionally other languages. For good reasons to study each of them, look . For a longer list of reasons to study French in particular, visit the .
- **Are there any books or websites out there to help me find jobs, or tell me about international opportunities and programs?** Yes, lots and lots of them. You can see them . Another big list is available on UNI's pages.
- **Now that I'm interested, are there any other articles online that I might look at?** We've put together a list of and we're adding to it as often as we can.

Here are fifteen things studying a new language might do for you. Language study

1. broadens your experiences; expands your view of the world
2. encourages critical reflection on the relation of language and culture, language and thought; fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
3. develops your intellect; teaches you how to learn
4. teaches and encourages respect for other peoples

5. contributes to cultural awareness and literacy, such as knowledge of original texts
6. builds practical skills (for travel or commerce or as a tool for other disciplines)
7. improves the knowledge of your own language through comparison and contrast with the foreign language
8. exposes you to modes of thought outside of your native language
9. a sense of relevant past, both cultural and linguistic
10. balances content and skill (rather than content versus skill)
11. expands opportunities for meaningful leisure activity (travel, reading, viewing foreign language films)
12. contributes to achievement of national goals, such as economic development or national security
13. contributes to the creation of your personality
14. enables the transfer of training (such as learning a second foreign language)
15. preserves (or fosters) a country's image as a cultured nation

The above modified from Alan C. Frantz, "Seventeen Values of Foreign Language Study" (ADFL Bulletin, vol. 28, Nr.1, Fall 1996).

Can I get a job if I major or minor in a foreign language? Yes, of course. First of all, almost any job, even in the United States, can benefit from your knowing another language. More and more of the U.S. population speaks languages other than English, and jobs in social services, business, communications, and the government all use people with language skills. Language skills set you apart from other workers, making you a better candidate for promotion and work on new projects.

Beyond that, there are a huge number of jobs that absolutely require that you speak a second language. These include working in the Foreign Service, serving as a translator and/or interpreter for the Government or the private sector, working at international institutions like the UN or UNICEF, teaching foreign languages, literatures, and cultures in schools or universities in the US or abroad, and working for transnational business corporations. Below you will find a list of the kinds of jobs people who major or minor in a second language have chosen:

Social services: social worker, probation officer, criminology and law enforcement, school counselor, drug abuse counselor, occupational health care, income maintenance counselor

Business and finance: accountant, administration, human resources director, economist, stockbroker, import-export agent

Communications: reporter, journalist, publisher, editor, interpreter, tour guide, public relations, film producer or director, sports agent

Science and Technology: Engineer, chemist physicist, anthropologist, archaeologist, geologist, biologist, oceanographer

Education: library science, elementary, secondary, and college level teaching in the US and abroad

Government: translator, interpreter, law enforcement, diplomatic foreign service, customs official, legal advisor

Other jobs include: Advertising Copywriter, Book reviewer, Columnist/ Commentator, Passenger Service Staff, Public Relations Representative, Radio Announcer, Production Manager, Technical Writer, Bilingual Educator, Peace Corps

Volunteer, Researcher, World Bank, FBI Agent, State Department or Foreign Service, and Exchange Program Coordinator.

But which language should I study?

Like many students who study another language, you too may want to make **Spanish** your choice. It is, after all, the second language of our nation and the language spoken by principal trading partners with the U.S. But you may also want to study or add a language that will equip you with a dimension that distinguishes you from many others:

Consider **French**, the language learned by those interested in French Art and History and their integral links to American culture; by those wanting to visit American tourists' favorite destinations, from Provence to the Alps, from Paris to the wine country; by those wanting to experience life la francaise, which includes month-long holidays, an inordinate time of eating, drinking, and speaking of politics (a refreshing change in a Dilbertesque era of corporate downsizing and mega-mergers); by those who know that French is extremely marketable in American big cities (New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles) where huge French corporations, fashion houses, and banks are found.

Taken and modified from the website of the Modern Languages department of Union College, www.union.edu.

Are there any books or websites out there to help me find jobs, or tell me about international opportunities and programs? Yes, of course. See any of the faculty in the Department of Modern Languages, or look at some of the resources below.

- The following resources are especially useful:

Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors by Julie Degalan and Stephen Lambert
Careers in International Affairs by Maria Pinto Carland
 Or visit

- And here are *30 Useful Resources for 1997* by the Monterey Institute of International Studies

General Almanac of International Jobs and Careers: A Guide to Over 1001 Employers and the Complete Guide to International Jobs and Careers. 2nd Editions, Krannich, Impact Publications, Manasses Park, VA, 1994 and 1992. Set covers paths, job hunting strategies, and employers.

Guide to Careers in World Affairs. 3rd Edition, Foreign Policy Association, Impact Publications, Manasses Park, VA, 1993. Identifies major international employers in business, government, nonprofits, and translation.

International Jobs: Where they are-How to get them. 4th Edition, Kocher. Addison-Wesley Publishing, Reading, MA 1993. General overview of international careers, employers, career planning, and job hunting.

"Think 'Job Skills First...Then Think 'International Career'..." *Planning Job Choices: 1997.* 40th Edition, National Association of Colleges and Employers, Bethlehem, PA, 1996. Concise and realistic article for both undergraduate and graduate students wishing to find entry-level positions in international jobs.

Business

American Jobs Abroad. Harlow and Knappman, Visible Ink Press, Gale Research, Inc., Detroit, MI, 1994. More than 800 US companies and 100 government/nonprofit agencies with career opportunities in 111 countries.

International Trade Resources Guide: Creating Job Through Trade. Stirling, California Chamber of Commerce and California Trade and Commerce Directory, 1993. States and metropolitan areas publish these type of international trade guides listing resources in the public and private sectors. Find the ones for your area.

Opportunities in International Business. Arpan, VGM Career Horizons, NTC Publishing Group, Lincolnwood, IL, 1994. Overview of international business functions with a chapter on educational preparation.

Government

Foreign Affairs: The Career of Choice. The Foreign Affairs Agencies Recruitment Council, Washington, DC, 1993. Describes mission, positions, selection process and how to apply to major US Government agencies.

How to Find an Overseas Job with the US Government. Cantrell and Moddero, Worldwide Books, Oakton, VA, 1992. The US Government is the largest single employer of US citizens overseas in a wide array of jobs.

The Most Interesting Work in the World. US Department of State, Washington, DC, 1995. Student Intern Program (publication #10199), US Department of State, Washington, DC, Annual. Application for the Foreign Service Officer Examination (publication #10341). US Department of State, Washington, DC, Annual. Describes Foreign Service Officer/Specialist and Civil Service employee jobs with information on student employment programs. The *Most Interesting Work in the World* videotape is part of a recruitment package developed by the US Department of State in 1995.

International Development, Peace and Security

Interaction Member Profiles 1995-1996. Ed. by Geoghegan and Allen, InterAction-American Council for Voluntary International Action, Washington, DC, 1995. Listing of 150 private voluntary organizations (PVO's).

International Affairs Directory of Organizations: The Access Resource Guide. Ed. Seymore, ABC-CLIO, Inc., Santa Barbara, CA, 1992. Information on war, peace, security, arms control and disarmament organizations.

The Peace Corps and More: 120 Ways to Work, Study and Travel in the Third World. 2nd Ed., Benjamin, Global Exchange, San Francisco, CA, 1993. How to get field experience in the international development field.

International Education

Academic Year Abroad, 1996-97 and Vacation Study Abroad, 1996-97. Institute of International Education(IIE), New York, NY, Annual. Best listings of US college sponsored study abroad for summer, semester and year.

Teaching English Abroad: Talk Your Way Around the World. 3rd Edition, Griffith, Vacation Work, Oxford, England (distributed by Peterson's Guides, Princeton, NJ), 1996. The bible for teaching English overseas.

International Exchange Locator: A Guide to US Organizations, Federal Agencies, and Congressional Committees Active in International Educational Exchange. Ed. by Burton, Liaison Group for International Educational Exchange, Washington, DC (distributed by IIE Books, New York, NY), 1994. Over 150 listings.

Internships, Study, Travel, and World Regions

The Access Guide to International Affairs Internships: Washington, DC. 4th Edition, Access, Washington, DC, 1996. Why not to do an international internship in the most international city in the US.

Directory of International Internships: A Guide to International Internships Sponsored by Educational Institutions, Government Agencies, and Various Organizations. 3rd Edition, Ed. by Gliozzo et al., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 1994. Excellent resource for internship opportunities at home and abroad.

International Directory of Youth Internships with the United Nations, It's Related Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations: A Directory of Intern/Volunteer Opportunities. 5th Edition, Ed. by Morehouse, The Apex Press, New York, NY, 1993. Good outline of where UN agencies are operating worldwide.

International Internships and Volunteer Programs: International Options for Students and Professionals. Cantrell and Modderno, Worldwide books, Oakton, VA, 1992. Intercultural experiences for all employer types.

Work, Study, Travel Abroad: The Whole World Handbook, 1994-95. 12th Edition, Council on International Educational Exchange, St. Martin's Press, New York, NY, 1996. Unrivaled sourcebook for students.

How to Get a Job in the Pacific Rim. Sanborn and Brandao, Surrey Books, Chicago, IL, 1992. Listings of employers, job hunting resources, and work permit regulations. Also, *How to Get a Job in Europe, 1995.*

After Latin American Studies: A Guide to Graduate Study, Fellowships, Internships and Employment for Latin Americanists. Kregar, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, PA, 1991.

Opportunities in Africa. The African American Institute, Interbook, New York, NY, 1993.

Another interesting article

Is the state of language education in the United States as "scandalous" as it was in 1979? A recent conference at Stanford University

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FRENCH WILL OPEN A WORLD OF CONTACTS FOR YOU

1. After English, French is the most useful language for global communication.

English speakers who study French can travel anywhere and communicate with others. French is spoken in over 40 countries and is the second most widely studied foreign language in the world. *The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Newsletter* (Winter 1998, Vol. X, Num. 5, p. 20) quotes *Language Today* on the "ten most influential languages," ranked according to the following criteria: number of primary speakers; number of secondary speakers; number and population of countries using the language; number of major fields (science, etc.) using the language internationally; economic power of countries using the language; and socio-literary prestige. In order of influence, the "top ten" are: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Hindi/Urdu.

2. French will provide access to more than twenty African countries.

French and English are the two most widely spread languages in Africa. Approximately half of the countries in Africa speak French as either a second language or as an official language. Education above the primary level in these countries is primarily in French.

3. French is the most useful language to accomplish the goal of using our foreign-language study to enhance our ability in English.

Studies have proven that foreign-language study results in higher test scores on the ACT and SAT English tests taken by high-school seniors. This is true about all foreign-language study but the pay-off in increased vocabulary will be the greatest when the languages share cognates. Because of the Norman Conquest and the use of French by the English nobility throughout the Middle Ages, French shares far more cognates with English than does any other language.

4. French is a very logical choice when communication is the goal.

One of the chief goals of foreign-language study is to personally experience communication in a foreign language. Because of shared vocabulary, French will allow English-speaking learners to learn to communicate, in both spoken and written form, as rapidly as any other foreign-language.

5. An American should know Spanish *and* French.

The most widely studied foreign languages in the United States are Spanish, French, German, Japanese, and Russian, in that order. Because French and Spanish are both romance languages, a student of one will have a built-in advantage when it comes to learning the other.