

What can I do with a degree in... Foreign Languages?

The Department of **Foreign Language & Literatures** offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in French, German, Russian and Spanish. The program in foreign languages and literatures investigates how peoples and nations express themselves through language, literature and other cultural phenomena. In today's world of increasing globalization, the ability to communicate effectively in another language and with a person from another culture is a highly sought after commodity. Knowledge of a foreign language combined with a chosen field will give students a significant competitive edge in the job market. Foreign Language & Literature Department website: <http://cas.okstate.edu/fl/>

Foreign Language majors develop the following skills:

The study of a foreign language involves learning new terminology, how to interpret information, decoding language, making meaning of text and interpreting visual cultural cues. Skills in communication, team building, cooperation, respect for others and tolerance for differences are all marketable skills developed in the foreign language classroom.

Cultural Analysis: Foreign Language majors learn to understand and appreciate the culture associated within the language and to gain insight into the evolution of the culture and civilization of foreign peoples as reflected in their literature.

Communication: Foreign Language majors learn to listen, speak, read, write, and comprehend one or more foreign languages.

Critical Thinking: Foreign Language majors learn to think and express themselves logically, precisely and critically in one or more foreign languages and to acquire skills in literary criticism by reading representative foreign authors

Depending on your desired career path, additional skills may need to be developed to be competitive in the marketplace upon graduation. Make an appointment with a career consultant to design your individual career development plan.

College of Arts & Sciences Career Success E-Guide

Provided to all new, incoming students as an introduction to career planning process
If you don't have an E-Guide...Get one!!!
Visit the A&S Career Services Office

Questions?

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services
Student Success Center, LSE 2nd Floor
Stillwater, OK 74078-3016
Visit the A&S website to make an appointment to see a Career Consultant @
<http://ascareers.okstate.edu>

Build Skills Beyond the Classroom:

- Join related clubs, professional associations, & organizations
- Athletics/Sports
- Military
- Part-time Employment (Summer/Work Study)
- Internships/Job Shadowing
- Travel/Work Abroad
- Volunteer/Community Service

Job & Internship Web Sites

- **American Councils of International Education**
<http://www.americancouncils.org/>
- **Institute of International Education**
<http://www.iie.org/>
- **Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages**
<http://www.tesol.org/>
- **American Translators Association**
<http://www.atanet.org>
- **National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators**
<http://www.najit.org>
- **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages**
<http://www.actfl.org>
- **Peace Corps**
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm>
- **Trabajos**
<http://www.trabajos.com/>
- **The Riley Guide International Resources**
<http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>
- **U.S. Department of State**
www.state.gov/careers
- **Bilingual Jobs**
<http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>
- **Dave's ESL Café-Job Center**
<http://www.eslcafe.com/jobs/>
- **Overseas Jobs**
<http://www.overseasjobs.com/>
- **America's Job Bank**
www.ajb.org
- **U.S. Office of personnel Management**
www.usajobs.opm.gov
- **United Nations**
www.un.org
- **Carl Albert Public Internship Program**
http://www.ok.gov/opm/State_Jobs/index.html

Sample Careers for Foreign Language Majors

Business

Foreign Language graduates have a host of business job opportunities open to them.

Career Options

Business Executive
 Sales Specialist
 Public Relations Expert
 Textbook Representative/Sales
 International Banking/Finance Officer
 International Lawyer
 Import/Export Specialist
 U.S. Representative (foreign company)
 Technical Liaison (U.S. businesses operating in a foreign country)

Potential Employers

Import/Export Firms	Banking Facilities
Non-Profit Organizations	Government

Communications

As the world moves closer to a global economy graduates with foreign language skills can be a valuable link in the communication chain.

Career Options

International Communications Specialist
 International Teletype Operator
 International Telephone Operator
 Foreign News Correspondent
 Foreign News Photographer
 Translator (books, articles, and reviews)
 Advertiser (ethnic or foreign market)
 Film/Radio/Television Producer
 Entertainment Media Specialist
 Simultaneous Interpreter
 Editor

Potential Employers

Telephone Companies	Telemarketing
News Organizations	Freelance

Travel Services

The increase in the number of international tourists visiting the country has made bilingualism an important skill in the travel industry.

Career Options

Hotel and Resort	Airline Pilot
Restaurant	Airport Personnel
Travel Agent	Travel Advisor
Ticket Agent	Tour Guide
Flight Attendants	

Potential Employers

Travel Industry	Visitors Bureau
Airlines/Airports	Convention Centers

Government & Information Services

Foreign language competence is an asset to workers in social work, public health, and law enforcement.

Career Options

Diplomatic Corps Officer
 Translator/Interpreter
 Court Interpreter
 Immigration Counselor
 U.S. Customer Agent
 U.S. Naturalization Service Agent
 Federal Agency Bilingual Staff

Potential Employers

United Nations
 U.S. Customs Service
 U.S. Department of State
 National Security Agency
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Drug Enforcement Administration

Education

Professors conducting research need to be able to locate information in a variety of sources and use or access to a foreign language is essential.

Career Options

Textbook Author/Editor	Linguistics
School Teacher	Translator
Educational Administrator	

Potential Employers

Universities/Colleges	K-12 Schools
Language Schools	Social Service

Science/Medicine/Social Services

Federal, state, and local service agencies hire bilingual or multilingual personnel, depending on the language groups presented in the community.

Career Options

Scientific Researcher	Counselor
Nurse/Doctor	Social Worker
Law Enforcement Officer	Missionary
Public Assistance Interviewer	Firefighter
Health Service Worker	Paramedic
Multilingual Attorney	Civil Service

Potential Employers

International Agencies	Hospitals
Social Service Agencies	Government
Law Enforcement	Armed Forces

For further research on career & employment options, utilize your preferred internet search engine.

The following websites are a great place to begin your research:

www.monstertrak.com	www.mymajor.com
www.quintcareers.com	www.monster.com
www.careerbuilder.com	www.bls.gov/oco

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services offers a:

Job Search Strategies Course (AS4111)

Arts & Sciences Majors (for Juniors & Seniors only)

Visit <http://ascareers.okstate.edu> for course description