

The acquisition of a foreign language is a valuable skill in almost every sector of today's global economy; a foreign language can be either the core of a person's career or a complement to it. If using your foreign language is a requirement to do the job successfully, then it is considered a primary skill. If it is an auxiliary skill, then other skills (management, writing, etc.) are equally important to your language proficiency, and your job may not require daily use of your language skills. A technician who knows **Russian** or **German**, the head of a company who knows **Japanese** or **Spanish**, or a salesperson who knows **French** or **Chinese** can work successfully with many more people and in many more places than someone who knows only one language.

Another option is that you work in a job that does not necessitate that you use your language skills at all. The communication skills and cultural knowledge gained through a foreign language degree can be applied to virtually any setting. Some of the more common settings are: **education, translating/interpreting, government, business, industry, commerce, publishing, travel/hospitality, museums, medical and social services.**

Translators and **Interpreters** are concerned with the translation of spoken or written words and expressions from one language into another. Translators deal with written text. They write documents and other written materials in another language. Interpreters work with live speech. They listen to speakers and translate what they say. Most of the work of the Translator falls into three categories: literary, legal, and scientific and technical. The job of **Sign Language Interpreters** is very similar to the job of foreign language Interpreters. Sign Language Interpreters translate a speaker's words into American Sign Language (ASL), using their hands, fingers, and facial expressions. They also repeat the deaf person's signed response to the speaker.

Studying in another country or working abroad during summers can help you become proficient with the language as well as understand the culture you are studying.

Transfer Information:

- A Bachelor's degree is entry-level into many of these professions and a Master's degree may be required for some. Those who want to teach foreign language at public elementary, middle or secondary schools must have a teaching certificate in addition to a Bachelor's degree.

Additional Information:

- I Love Languages: www.ilovelanguages.com
- Modern Language Association: www.mla.org

