Languages – Translation and Hospitality

There are several ways language graduates can use their language knowledge and skills. Many students will look at careers in translation and interpreting and this sector briefing focuses on these careers. Other options where languages are key include tourism, business, government, international law, finance, teaching and others. See the Prospects website on “What can I do with my degree in Modern Languages?” for further information on these areas.

**An interpreter** conveys into another language the spoken word of others. Mediums include conference interpreting and consecutive interpreting.

Large NGOs such as the EU and UN have permanent interpreter roles and tend to be very selective, only taking graduates who have completed postgraduate courses, or interpreters with prior experience. Outside these most interpreters work freelance, and need to have specific training for the role.

**A translator** converts written content from one language to another ensuring the original meaning is conveyed accurately. Documents mostly come from a commercial, technical or scientific background though could be educational or literary. Translators usually need to have an excellent knowledge and understanding of two or more languages. A relevant postgraduate course is almost essential as the number of direct graduate vacancies is low.

There are far more full-time posts for translators than for interpreters. As well as the international organisations, translators can work in a range of companies, specialised translation agencies, and many work on a freelance basis. Freelance translators are likely to specialise in a particular area (e.g. Law, Finance).

**Interpreters and translators** are also required in a wide range of other activities and lines of work, including aiding police investigations and other security services, helping immigrants, conference proceedings, sports events and governmental communications.

**Key Resources**

- **Translate Media**
  A useful guide from a translation agency on how to become a translator and how to get work

- **United Nations**
  The UN is one of the largest employers of language professionals. Outlines language careers within the UN

- **The Institute of Translation and Interpreting**
  Represents translation and interpretation professionals in the UK and provides useful knowledge about the industry

- **Association of Translation Services**
  A useful list of organisations to target for job applications

- **Aquarius**
  An online marketplace helping translators match up with those wanting their services

Access this page and more industries at [reading.ac.uk/careers/resources](http://reading.ac.uk/careers/resources)
Capita: Translation and Interpreting
Provides language services across the public and private sector

Use the following links as appropriate to find vacancies within the EU

Where to look for translator or interpreter jobs in EU institutions
This is a useful publication on translation and interpreter jobs in the EU
EU Careers in interpreting and translating
YouTube videos interpreting and translating

EPSO
EPSO is the European Selection Office and provides access to most jobs working for EU institutions

The Directorate General for Interpretation (DG Interpretation)
The European Commission’s interpreting service and conference organiser

The Directorate-General for Translation (DG Translation)
The in-house translation service of the European Commission

EU Commission – Traineeships
Traineeships for translation interns at the European Commission

Other EU institutions and bodies
Council of the European Union
European Parliament
Economic and Social Committee
European Court Jobs and European Court Traineeships

Court of Auditors
These all have their own translation departments, whereas the various agencies, spread around the EU, have a translation centre in Luxembourg to handle their translation work.

Language recruitment agencies
Euro London Appointments
Language Matters
Both of these links are good examples of where to find job roles within a business or public sector capacity

You may also be interested in...

- Accountancy and Financial Services
- Business, Management and Consultancy Sector

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