Modern Language graduates tend to be most interested in careers in the Public Sector, Teaching and Education, Marketing, Advertising and PR, Recruitment and HR, and Media and the Internet. In addition, because of the broad range of skills and experiences gained the degree makes students very marketable for job roles within sectors such as Accountancy, Banking and Finance, as well as Retail and Sales. The links below will help you gain a good understanding of each career sector, key employers, current issues and lists of job roles available.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Translator
- Interpreter
- Secondary (languages) Teacher
- Civil Service Fast Streamer (including Foreign and Commonwealth Office)
- Administrator in the European Union
- Public Relations Officer
- Marketing Officer
- Human Resources Officer
- Retail Buyer
- Sales Executive
- Chartered Accountant/Auditor
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- Event’s Organiser

Finding Opportunities

There are a number of language teaching options in a school environment – usually accessed through a teacher training qualification. It is also important to gain good relevant teaching experience in a school during your degree in order to have an application for teacher training taken seriously.

Apart from teaching, the most obvious career alternative is translation and interpretation work. Apart from a few structured roles around the EU and similar organisations, roles can be very hard to find and a professional training qualification in translation and interpreting is almost essential – more details can be found through The Institution of Translation and Interpreting.

Many language graduates would like to work outside the UK straight after their degree however few of these jobs are graduate level roles and tend to be temporary positions which enable graduates to live abroad. Jobs are often in areas such as teaching English as a foreign language.

Language graduates forget that many non-language career opportunities can usually be accessed direct from your degree. While further training is not essential some post-graduate courses do exist which may improve chances of gaining a job role.

Large employers will advertise their vacancies directly to students via the University of Reading Careers Centre (see MyJobsOnline). Employers will also use other well-known websites such as Graduate Prospects to advertise opportunities.
Further details on identifying potential recruiters and vacancies are available through the links in the ‘Roles’ sections above. But some specialist websites include:

**Prospects** covers all jobs in this briefing

**The Civil Service** has several links through to both its graduate fast stream pages and more generalist opportunities.

**Euro London Appointments** is one of the largest language recruitment agencies in Europe. Other good ones to check out include: **Corinium Language Associates** and **Appointments Bi-language**. **Top Language Jobs** advertise temporary and permanent jobs in Europe

**Association of Translation Companies** provides a useful list of Translation companies

To find European Employers working in the UK explore do a web search to find Chambers of Commerce or Trade Commission links. For Franco or Italian links see respectively **Franco-British Chamber of Commerce & Industry**. For Italian links see the **Italian Trade Agency** website.

**Further Reading**

The **Chartered Institute of Linguists**

Oxford University has a useful guide - **Oxford University Guide to International Organisations** for those wanting to work for an International Organisation

**Third Year Abroad** contains useful information on job ideas, post-degree gap year’s internships and graduate case studies.