Major Possibilities:
Modern Languages
Chinese, French, German, Spanish

Career Services
Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
Prothro Center 1st Floor, 512.863.1346, 512.863.1270 fax
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers

Here to help you get ahead.

Summary

- Careers related exclusively to language proficiency are limited and are usually filled by native speakers. But combining language proficiency with other skill sets enhances opportunities in government, business, medicine and health care, law enforcement, teaching, technology, the military, communications, industry, social service, and marketing.
- A person fluent in more than one language can have an advantage over peers in the workforce. When applying for a job, your potential employer will know that you can help them expand their clientele.
- Professionals who know other languages often travel more and exchange information with professionals in other countries throughout their careers.
- If you have not grown up learning more than one language, becoming fluent in another language takes dedication and hard work, but it is definitely possible. Potential employers will recognize your effort. And since you learn *how to learn* languages, learning the next language is easier.

Modern language major synopsis

Majors are offered in French, German, and Spanish, and minors in French, German, Spanish, and Chinese. Majors are expected to acquire a strong grasp of language and a working knowledge of literature, culture and film. The capstone experience, an integrative project in which students undertake significant writing and research in the target language, provides a solid grounding that prepares students as much for graduate work as for sophisticated original projects in many fields. Students often pair their major or minor with expertise in another discipline. For information on the language placement exam, consult the course catalog.

Chinese
The Chinese language is the most widely spoken language in the world, with over 1.2 billion speakers – that's 1/5 of the world's population. There are many job opportunities for a graduate fluent in Chinese because China is one of the fastest growing markets in the world economy and, correspondingly, political relationships with China are increasingly important.

French
French is used as an official language in 29 countries, including Belgium, Canada, Haiti, Madagascar, and Switzerland. French is spoken in both North and South America, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and, of course, Europe. It is a Romance language, meaning that it was derived from Latin. According to a French demographic project, approximately 500 million people will speak French by 2025.

German
German is one of the Germanic languages, related to Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, Dutch, as well as to English. It is used as the official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and parts of Italy and Belgium. German is the most widely spoken native language in the European Union.

Spanish
Spanish, another Romance language, is of great importance to the United States because of neighboring Mexico. If you are interested employment stateside, fluency in Spanish will greatly enhance your ability to find a job. Spanish is also spoken as the official language in Spain, most of South and Central America, and parts of the Caribbean. It is the second most prevalent first language in the world (after Mandarin Chinese).

Language learning tips

- Through study abroad or other means, visit a country whose people speak the language you are learning, and learn the culture and customs of that country.
- The most valuable language-learning experience is immersion.
- Read foreign newspapers and magazines to keep up with world events.
- Listen to popular music in the language you are learning.
- Most language students cannot speak as well as they can read and write. Practice speaking aloud. Take oral presentations seriously.

Sample job titles

Accounts Manager
Administrator
Advertising Executive
Anthropologist
Archivist
Banker
Broadcaster
Civil Service Officer
Columnist
Conference Planner
Consultant
Copywriter
Correspondent
Cultural Specialist
Customs Officer
Diplomat
Editor
FBI/CIA Agent
Financial Analyst
Foreign Service Officer
Health Services
Hotel Manager
Immigration Officer
Intelligence Specialist
Int'l Relations Specialist
Journalist
Law Enforcement Agent
Lawyer
Legislator
Linguist
Media Specialist
Mission Worker
Museum Curator
National Security Agent
Operations Management
Peace Corps Volunteer
Programs Coordinator
Public Relations Officer
Researcher
Sales Representative
Social Worker
State Department Employee
Teacher
Technical Writer
Translator/Interpreter
Travel Writer
Tour Guide
Urban Planner

Sample internship employers of SU students

APAICS – Washington, DC
Austin-Travis County Mental Health Center – Austin, TX
CIA Internship Program
Colorodo Springs *Gazette*
Council on Foreign Relations – New York
CSIS – Washington, DC
Delegation of European Commission
FBI Internship Program
Global Experiences Internships
ICADS Internship Program
Lawyers Bureau – Cordoba City, Argentina
Pace University – New York City, NY
Magazine Publishers of America
Southwestern University Language Departments – Georgetown, TX
The American University – Washington DC
The Carter Center – Atlanta, GA
The Museum of Modern Art
The Roswell Group – New York City, NY

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Assistant Director (Language Stars)
Community Organizer (La Union del Pueblo Entero)
Content Editor (Expert Village)
Case Manager/Life Skills Teacher (SafePlace-AmeriCorps)
Editorial Assistant (Benchmark Education Company)
ESL Instructor (Houston Community College)
Director for Strategic Partnerships (National Hispanic Institute)
Family Advocate (Casa Marianella)
Federal Law Enforcement Officer (U.S. Secret Service)
Financial Advisor (Erben Associates; Edward Jones)
Interpreter (Bluebonnet Trails MHMR)
Legal Assistant
Legislative Correspondent (TX House of Representatives)
Paralegal (Baker Botts LLP, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center)
Program Coordinator (Congressman Pete Sessions)
Residential Life Coordinator (The Village School)
Service Coordinator (AmeriCorps)
Teacher (Peace Corps, Mariposa Montessori, Fulbright Commission)
Technical Sales Representative (National Instruments)
Theraputic Child Care Specialist (Helping Hand Home for Children)

Professional associations

American Association for Applied Linguistics: www.aaal.org
American Association of Teachers of French: www.frenchteachers.org
American Association of Teachers of German: www.aatg.org
American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese: www.aatsp.org
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: www.actfl.org
American Literary Translators Association: www.utdallas.edu/alta/
American Translators Association: www.atanet.org
Association of Language Companies: www.alcus.org
Institute of Linguists: www.sil.org
Linguistic Society of America: www.lsadc.org
Modern Languages Association: www.mla.org
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators: www.najit.org

Additional Web resources

ALS International Languages: www.alsintl.com
Bilingual Career: www.bilingualcareer.com
German Language Guide: www.germanlanguageguide.com
International Career Resources: www.duke.edu/~lpmaskel/intl_general.html
International Languages Page: www.ilovelanguages.com/
Language Jobs: www.languagejobs.org
Online Encyclopedia of Writing Systems & Languages: http://www.omniglot.com/index.htm
Overseas Jobs: www.overseasjobs.com
Overseas Job Opportunities: www.escapeartist.com/
Teaching English abroad: www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/esl/index.shtml
U.S. Department of State: www.state.gov/careers/

Career Services' print resources

Alternatives to the Peace Corps
A Career in Language Translation
Best Resumes and CVs for International Jobs
Careers for Foreign Language Aficionado & Other Multilingual Types
Careers in International Affairs
The Entrepreneurial Linguist
Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors
Insider's Guide to the Peace Corps
Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers
Opportunities in Overseas Careers
Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Translation as a Profession
Vault Career Guide to International Careers
Vault Career Guide to International Development
Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange and Development