



How Languages Can Take Your Career Further

F/X:

A telephone rings

Julian Smith, Recruitment Consultant:

I studied French and Italian at university and have self-taught Spanish and Portuguese. The interesting thing is I don't actually get to use my language skills at work but I do feel they've contributed overall to both my sales skills and also make me into a more confident communicator. It's probably for this reason that I look for the ability to speak a second language whenever I'm recruiting staff for my own business, it makes for a well-rounded employee.

Caption:

There is a shortage of language skills in the UK

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Caroline Rault, Artist:

Knowing French and knowing Italian and Mauritian Creole has really helped me be a better artist in a lot of ways. I tend to paint or make prints about things that I imagine and I wonder if knowing lots of languages means that you have a wider range of metaphors or visual symbols to draw on. Language has really, really formed me as a person, I just think it changed my brain. It did something to change my neural pathways.

Caption:

70% of UK business owners have no foreign language skills

Source: British Chamber of Commerce

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David Garrido, Sky Sports Presenter:

There are so many advantages to speaking languages. In my job we use it to speak to foreign clubs, foreign players, check on transfer news, check if the stories in the papers are true. Sometimes I've even had to translate live on air if the club releases a press statement.

Caption:

Language graduates are in high demand

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Keen Poon, Management Consultant:

Speaking Mandarin has made work life a lot easier. The most recent meeting I've had in Hong Kong I was able to use it to great effect. The majority of attendees were Chinese and the fact that I offered Mandarin as a secondary option for them to explain themselves and explain their ideas made the meeting go a lot smoother and made a lot everyone be a lot more comfortable during the meeting.

Caption:

77% of firms identify the need for foreign language skills

Source: CBI/Pearson Education and Skills survey 2015

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Rachel Bleetman, intern at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

Being able to speak Arabic definitely helped me get into this internship at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. My language skills were especially important to me when I was working for an NGO and I was required to translate documents from Hebrew into Arabic. This specific task illustrated to me that language learning isn't just about communication but it also helps with other capabilities such as problem solving.

Caption:

Language graduates are highly employable

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Sir Michael Brady, Professor of Oncological Imaging:

I started learning French again at the age of 49. The difference it's made has been really quite remarkable. I started talking to a lot of people in French industry that I wouldn't have been

able to speak to before and that meant that not only were we beginning to get research collaborations, we are starting to see top quality French students come and work in my company in my labs.

Caption:

88% of Modern Languages graduates were in employment or training 6 months after graduation

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

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Etienne Lamy-Smith, Journalist Agence-France Presse:

I started learning Mandarin in order to do a job that I was already doing but in a different country and having learnt the language to a level where I could be conversational, I was then able to get exactly the job I wanted. As a journalist it's very important to be able to understand as much as possible by yourself. It's useful having a translator but there's only so much they can translate and if you can understand the language you can have a closer connection to the person you're interviewing to make the story stronger.

Caption:

60% of employers are concerned about school-leavers' foreign language skills

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

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Morgan Phillips, Video Producer:

I think the other thing with having a language is it helps you think outside the box. Because when you're trying to translate something, whether it's grammar or even just a sense of humour thing which doesn't translate literally, you have to find another way to approach the situation.

Caption:

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