Options With Your Languages Degree
Studying languages provides graduates with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that are highly valued by employers.

Unlike studying a vocational course you are not being trained for a specific job; there are many options to choose from and reading this booklet will give you some ideas to help you start thinking about your future possibilities and career goals. Many Languages graduates wish to use their languages in a very direct way by going into careers in translation, interpreting, teaching, or by working for the Diplomatic Service. Language skills are also very much in demand within the general area of business for companies abroad or for foreign-owned companies based in the UK.

The demand for graduate level skills remains high. However, the face of the economy is changing and a key to your future employment success is to understand the sectors that are growing and those that are in decline. For example, the digital media industries and professional services are growing rapidly, particularly in Greater Manchester. A recent report commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in conjunction with LinkedIn, found that those proficient in social media marketing, events coordination, data mining, and analytical problem solving skills, were much more likely to find employment.

This booklet is packed with real examples of how Manchester Met students like you have used their degree as a platform to build a career.

Some questions to consider when reading this:

- What are your strengths?
- What matters to you about work – your interests, priorities and values?
- Who do you want to work with – e.g. a certain type of client?
- Which organisations are doing the type of work that interests you?
- What are the ways in - will you need to do a specialist post-graduate course or will relevant work experience/volunteering be enough?
- Have you logged into My Career Hub to search for vacancies?
- Have you made an appointment to talk though your ideas with one of our Careers and Employability Consultants?

How will my languages degree make me employable?

Studying and being proficient in languages can help you develop many skills that are attractive to employers: enhanced communication ability, interpersonal skills, analytical abilities, strong presentation skills, attention to detail, independence, and adaptability. You can use your language skills in many careers and job roles, from translating and interpreting to teaching or working in marketing, travel and hospitality, logistics and with businesses that trade internationally. Employers are keen to recruit graduates with a global mind set and who are sensitive to cultural differences, and being adept at communicating in additional languages is definitely a valuable asset. Languages can be your unique selling point, giving you the extra edge and setting you apart from other graduates with similar backgrounds.

Other marketable skills include:

- **ability to learn other languages with relative ease**, essential if you want to work as a Language Analyst—Linguist at GCHQ;
- **show curiosity and openness towards other cultures**, crucial in any job but essential in the European or Diplomatic Service;
organise and present ideas in a framework of a structured and reasoned argument, useful if you are considering training as a solicitor or barrister, working in marketing, sales or advertising accounts management;

a talent for clear expression, both oral and written, commanding a broad range of vocabulary and critical terminology, a crucial skill in any job, but especially primary and secondary teaching, HE lecturing, creative writing or journalism (broadcast, magazine, newspaper or digital);

basing conclusions on research and generating ideas, the ability to gather, evaluate and interpret information, which opens possibilities for working in data analysis, information management, intelligence gathering (MI5), law enforcement, risk management (insurance, financial advice), genealogy and the legal and accountancy professions;

communicate and work creatively and flexibly with others, crucial in any job but essential skills for advice and guidance, health and social care and counselling roles;

thinking creatively, critically and independently, identifying, absorbing and sifting complex information, highly valuable in public policy and research roles;

deploy skills in note taking and summarising, library research, IT, analysis and problem solving, linguists make excellent librarians, archivists, gallery and museum curators, logistics experts and project managers;

the ability to gather, evaluate and interpret information, which opens possibilities for working in data analysis, information management, intelligence gathering (MI5), law enforcement, risk management (insurance, financial advice), genealogy and the legal and accountancy professions.

Skills gained at University level include

- prioritising & managing your time effectively;
- using initiative, self-motivation and a drive and determination to get things done;
- planning and researching written work, finding relevant information from a range of resources;
- understanding and explaining complex theories and arguments;
- critically analysing and evaluating evidence and arguments;
- ability to work independently;
- recording and summarising information efficiently;
- gaining a good understanding of the uses of information technology and developing a range of IT skills;
- leading and participating in discussions and developing confidence in your own opinions;
- project management;
- using judgment when weighing up different options and alternative perspectives;
- working towards a solution using negotiation skills;
- working with others when presenting ideas, information and practical work;
- making presentations/public speaking;
- understanding your own role and strengths in a team.
Job options related to your Languages degree include

**Jobs directly related to your Languages degree could include:**
- Interpreter
- Secondary school teacher
- Translator

**Jobs where a Language degree would be useful could include:**
- Broadcast journalist
- Detective
- Diplomatic service officer
- English as a foreign language teacher
- International aid/development worker
- Logistics and distribution manager
- Marketing executive
- Patent examiner
- Sales executive
- Tour manager

For more information visit the Prospects website.

**Other employment sectors to consider**

All the suggested careers found in this guide are open to Languages graduates and there are many more besides. For many opportunities, you will find that employers don’t specify any particular degree subject. Therefore, it’s key when career planning not to limit your thinking to jobs that only relate directly to your degree. For example, sectors like engineering have roles for non-engineers in management, logistics, project management etc. You can research different job sectors here.

**Accountancy and consultancy:** you need a good GCSE in maths and a competency with numbers. For example RSM Tenon, are a professional services firm offering risk management, tax, recovery, financial management and business advisory services. Minimum entry requirements *240 UCAS points (the UCAS tariff has changed so check with UCAS) and 2:2 degree projected in any subject.

**Advertising, marketing and PR:** entry is very competitive but digital marketing, including writing copy for blogs and social media is a growth area. For example, Heamar a supplier of specialist military specification tooling and components to the Military, Aerospace, Medical, Motor Sport and Mass Transit Industries, advertised for a Digital Marketing Trainee on My Career Hub. Whilst the applicant needed to demonstrate a reasonable understanding and experience of digital marketing activities, they also considered candidates with a strong background in creative writing / copywriting and/or with exceptional English language skills.
Banking and finance: AON, an insurance broker based in Manchester, recruits graduate trainees from any discipline for some of its roles. For example to apply for their Health & Benefits Broking and Consulting Stream, you must be educated to degree level with a 2:1 or equivalent qualification in any discipline. You should also be enthusiastic, creative and ambitious.

Business and management: many of the UK’s largest companies offer graduate schemes where you can specialise in different areas of business. Bentley Cars, based in Crewe, have a Graduate Development Programme offering trainee roles in sales and marketing, HR, finance, purchasing and logistics.

Community and Voluntary Sector: although there are relatively few graduate trainee posts, you can train as a youth and community worker, or move into paid administrative or fundraising roles (usually when you have experience gained in other industries or have already been a volunteer).

Government and public administration: although this sector has seen a reduction in jobs, the public sector is still a big recruiter and encompasses jobs in the Civil Service, regional and devolved government, NHS management, local government, law enforcement and intelligence services. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme prepares recruits for management roles in HR, finance and general management.

Health and social care: this is a huge sector, which is changing rapidly in the way it is structured and the job roles within it. It’s important to keep up-to-date with current issues if you are considering entry. Jobs include social worker, specialist community support workers, residential care management, counselling and work within charities.

Teaching: Language teachers are very in demand at the moment. Get Into Teaching are offering £26,000-£28,000 of tax-free bursaries to secondary language trainee teachers for the 2018/19 cohort.

Further Study
Postgraduate study has the potential to enhance your career prospects and may be essential for some career choices. With a variety of postgraduate qualifications available, it is important that you research your options before starting your applications. Read our Postgraduate Study and Funding Guide for detailed information on available courses and funding options and search for courses on these websites:

Find a Masters
Find a PHD
Prospects - postgraduate study

What have Manchester Met’s Languages graduates done?
The following information represents some of the next steps for Manchester Met Languages graduates:

- Export Accounts Manager
- ESOL Teaching Assistant
- International Sales and Marketing
- Banker
- Trainee Social Worker
- Recruitment Consultant
MA Magazine Journalism
MA Applied Linguistics
MA Translation Studies
PGCE Secondary
MA Multi Media Journalism
MA Conference Interpreting and Translation
TEFL
MA International Fashion Business: Marketing Management

Be inspired by other Manchester Met Languages graduates

Resources to research career areas

Prospects: What can I do with my modern languages degree? Research areas such as job options, further education, skills to add to your CV and typical employers for Languages graduates.

Prospects: Job profiles

TargetJobs: what can I do with a modern languages degree? Talks through skills you can gain, job options, and famous people who have History degrees.

Career and Employability guides: provide detailed information on a wide range of careers topics and are downloadable from our website, and include: Opportunities in the Public & Not for Profit Sector, Looking for Graduate Jobs and Researching your career options

Career Planner: what you want from work and generates some job ideas.

Finding graduate opportunities

Careers & Employability provide information and advice on job searching and we advertise hundreds part-time opportunities, vacation work, placements, internships and graduate jobs vacancies throughout the year on MyCareerHub. To access these vacancies simply login with your Manchester Met Student ID number and password.

Graduate Recruitment Schemes have many different names, but most are offered by larger organisations, from multinational companies to opportunities in the NHS, civil service, and local government. Graduate schemes typically last for around two years, although this can vary and allow you to experience different placements within the organisation to gain an understanding of how it operates, explore your interests and decide what type of work/role you are most suited to.

Here are some examples:

Civil Service Fast Stream is an accelerated graduate scheme, designed to prepare graduates for senior managerial positions and has a number of different areas of specialism. The European Fast Stream enables you to specialise in EU issues in the UK Civil Service during a time of significant change. As a European fast streamer, you could work on some of the UK’s highest priority policy areas as we develop our future relationships with the European Union. You may also work on wider UK domestic policy across the Civil Service. You can also apply for the Diplomatic Service (European) scheme provided you meet the requirements for the Diplomatic service.
This is the main **Civil Service** gateway listing all levels of vacancies, including graduate vacancies not recruited via the Fast Stream, searchable by region. You can also create email alerts for jobs that may interest you.

**NHS Graduate Training Scheme**: offering roles in management, health analysis and informatics, HR and Policy and Strategy.

Other jobs in the **NHS**

**National Graduate Development Programme**: a graduate training scheme run by the Local Government Association.

Only a small proportion of the UK job market is made up of graduate schemes. Most graduates will be employed directly into individual positions within organisations. Recruitment for these jobs is less structured in timing and promotion than graduate recruitment schemes, meaning vacancies can be harder to find. Many companies choose to advertise on the web in industry specific journals, magazines and websites, on their own company websites or via specialised, recruitment agencies. You need to familiarise yourself with the sector you are interested in.

**Recruitment agencies and jobs boards for linguists**

- iAgora
- Appointments Bi-Language
- Corinium Language Associates
- Euro London Appointments
- Europe Language Jobs
- French Recruitment
- French Selection  (also recruits speakers of German, Italian, Russian and Spanish)
- The Language Business
- The Language Export Centre
- Lingua-jobs
- Multilingual Vacancies
- Reed
- Top Language Jobs

**Other employers and resources**

- British Council
- Eurograduate
- Guardian Jobs
- Prospects
- Target Jobs
- **The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers**: as chosen by graduates.
- Chartered Institute of Linguists
- **Language Show Live** An annual event held in London each October, which includes a programme of seminars and a Career Zone
- **Routes Into Languages** includes a series of webinars on employability for language students
Global Graduates Study and Work Abroad: Advice, answers and opportunities for young people with global skills

I want to Work In: Another Country
I want to Work In: an International Organisation
I want to Work In: Travel and Tourism

Developing Your Language Skills – if you want to keep up your language knowledge, or add another language to your skills set, these pages will help.

Working for yourself

Some Manchester Met graduates have also successfully started their own business/social enterprise.

Innospace: Manchester Met’s business incubator for start-ups and new enterprises

UNLtd: The foundation for social entrepreneurs, provide packages of support and funding for people who want to make a difference. They support individuals with entrepreneurial solutions to social issues. In addition, look at our guide: Working for yourself.

How else can you make yourself employable

Make the most of your time at university and take advantage of the many opportunities on offer.

Take part in Careers and Employability events ranging from talks and workshops to employer events: www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events

Careers & Employability Support

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

Careers Consultant Appointments: Book a 30 minute appointment and get expert advice from our specialist Careers Consultants.

Find Opportunities: We advertise hundreds of part time, graduate and internship roles through My Career Hub.

For more information visit our website.