

Careers for Majors/Diploma of Languages in French

There are many careers that relate to French and Francophone Studies. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned throughout your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers most likely to benefit from your study of French.

Skills, knowledge and abilities acquired in the French major

- *Skills to communicate effectively in French in various social and professional contexts,*
- *French and Francophone literacy - a sound understanding of cultural and social practices in French and the French-speaking world in general,*
- *Ability to constructively and respectfully engage in intercultural dialogue as a bi-(multi)cultural and bi-(multi)lingual person and as a global citizen*

Career fields which build on the skills and knowledge acquired through a French major

Background

There are an estimated **220 million** French speakers worldwide.

French is the 9th most widely spoken language on the planet and the only one, together with English, to be spoken on all five continents.

French is the 2nd most widely spoken second language (19%) after English (41%) and ahead of German (10%) and Spanish (7%) in the European Union.

French is either the official language, or one of the official languages in 32 countries.

French is the dominant working language at:

- the European Court of Justice
- the European Tribunal of First Instance
- the Press Room at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

The **International Organisation of La Francophonie's** 75 member states and governments represent over one-third of the United Nation's member states.

With 18.9% of world exports and 19% of world imports, French-speaking countries account for **19% of world trade in goods**.

The **Academic Agency of La Francophonie** federates 781 establishments for further education and research in 94 countries.

(source: <http://www.francophonie.org/Welcome-to-the-International.html> 22/09/2014)

The table below lists a range of careers that draw on studies in French. The list is not exhaustive; language skills can complement almost any occupational field and create specific opportunities.

The table also provides some information about 'next steps' i.e. what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether the career can be entered directly following Bachelor studies, or whether graduate study is required.

There are two employment types for post-Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates

- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final-year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available. Where this is the case, graduate study may not be required.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Language as ‘core business’ – specialist language occupations

Career options generally fall into two categories – those where language is the core activity, and those where language skill is paired with another skill.

Role	Employers	Next Steps
Translating	Business/multinational companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO	MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions
Interpreting	Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO	MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions
Teaching French	Private institutions	No specific requirements, though qualifications assist eg Graduate Diploma in French as a Second/Foreign Language
Teaching French Studies	Primary/Secondary schools Higher Education	Master of Teaching PhD in French
DELF, DALF	Teaching French as a Foreign/Second Language	Requires additional training/certificate

Careers which make use of language in conjunction with another skill

Note that language skill can be used to complement almost any other skill to suggest career possibilities. Below are some examples only.

Role	Companion studies	Employers	Next Steps
Diplomacy/international relations	Politics and International studies/European Studies	Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies	Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - International Relations
Multicultural Affairs, Migration and Asylum Seekers Welfare	Politics, Law, Development Studies, Social Work	Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO	
Academia/research	Any field	University Research Centres	Honours Masters by research PhD
Engineers and Scientists	Any field	Companies	
Musicians	Especially classical music		
Comedians, Artists, Art curators	Especially Visual and Performing Arts	Theater companies Museums	
Librarian – French collection librarian	Arts French Studies	Libraries	Graduate Diploma/Masters (Information Management/Library Studies)
International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia	Business Marketing Commerce Economics	Commercial businesses (e.g. fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture) Trading companies	Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies- International Business
Translation software, language engineering	IT/Computer Science Linguistics	Software companies IT Venture business	Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science
Tourism – in Australia, in the French-speaking world	Arts Commerce	Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (e.g. Airline industry)	Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management
TESOL	English Education	Teaching in France or in a Francophone country (private colleges or Universities)	Some may require CELTA MA in TESOL

		Teaching in Australia Universities, Colleges and language schools	Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require)
Cultural exchange (project and program management roles)	Arts	Cultural exchange associations, industry groups e.g.	Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management
Policy and Public sector Administration	Law Political Science	Consulate and embassy Government Consultant	Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law
Defence and National Security		Defence force	Defence Academy

Where can I find out more?

Further information on career areas:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options (Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions on careers with French:

European Commission Languages Homepage http://ec.europa.eu/languages/index_en.htm
Network Linguistic Policy for the Labour Market <http://www.lilama.org/documents>

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>
<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>
<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Studying in France:

Many Honours and Research Higher Degree Students spend time in France and Francophone countries.

<http://www.australie.campusfrance.org/en/>

GDF-Suez Graduate Programs

<http://www.australie.campusfrance.org/en/actualite/gdf-suez-graduate-programs>

Working in France/francophone countries:

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/>

Organisations in Australia:

School of Languages and Linguistics

<http://languages-linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/>

NAATI National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters http://www.naati.com.au/home_page.html

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

<http://www.francophonie.org>

Alliance Française Melbourne

<http://www.australie.campusfrance.org/en/page/alliance-française-melbourne>

Australian Society for French Studies

<http://australiansocietyforfrenchstudies.com>

Association of French Teachers of Victoria

French-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce

French Missions in Australia

French Embassy

<http://www.ambafrance-au.org/-English->

France in Victoria

<http://www.ambafrance-au.org/France-in-Victoria>

French Trade commission in Australia Ubifrance

<http://www.ubifrance.com/au/>

French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI)

www.facci.com.au

Australian French Association for Science and Technology (Victoria) Inc (AFAS Vic.)

www.afas.org.au/vic

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade useful links

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/France/>

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/canada/>

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/belgium/>

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/switzerland/>