

## Careers for German Majors/Diploma of Languages in German

There are many career fields which relate to studies in German. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

### Skills, knowledge and abilities acquired in the German major

- *Skills to communicate effectively in German in various social and professional contexts,*
- *German literacy - a sound understanding of cultural and social practices in Germany and the German-speaking world in general,*
- *Ability to constructively and respectfully engage in intercultural dialogue as a bicultural and bilingual person and as a global citizen*

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

*If I'm selling to you, I speak your language. If I'm buying, dann müssen Sie Deutsch sprechen (Willy Brandt).*

The strong German economy creates job opportunities in many fields. After English, the business language most in demand in the European Union is German. As indicated by the quote of former German chancellor Willy Brandt, in order to sell to the Germans, one needs to speak German. Especially small and medium businesses have developed a multilingual export strategy (<http://www.sens-public.org/spip.php?article869&lang=en>).

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

The table also provides some information about 'next steps' ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether the career field 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](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 German	Private institutions  Primary/Secondary schools  Higher Education	No specific requirements, though qualifications assist eg Graduate Diploma in German as a Second/Foreign Language  Master of Teaching  PhD in German
Teaching German Studies DAF, DaZ	Teaching German 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
Academia/research	Any field	University	Honours

		Research Centres	Masters by research PhD
Engineers and Scientists	Any field	Companies	
Musicians	Especially classical music		
Librarian – German collection librarian	Arts German 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 German-speaking world	Arts Commerce	Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (eg. Airline industry)	Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management
TESOL	English Education	Teaching in Germany, Austria or Switzerland private colleges  Teaching in Germany, Austria or Switzerland Universities  Teaching in Australia Universities, Colleges and language schools	Some may require CELTA  MA in TESOL  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 eg	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](http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options) (Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

#### **Other discussions on careers with German:**

European Commission Languages Homepage [http://ec.europa.eu/languages/index\\_en.htm](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 Germany:**

Many Honours and Research Higher Degree Students spend time in Germany and the German-speaking world.

The German Academic Exchange Service offers scholarships and has made available a scholarship database which covers offers from other facilitating institutions as well <https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/de/21148-stipendiendatenbank/>

Information for research in Austria can be found at [http://www.euraxess.at/research\\_in\\_austria/](http://www.euraxess.at/research_in_austria/) as well as <http://www.grants.at/home/EN/>

#### **Working in Germany/Austria/Switzerland:**

**Make it in Germany.** Official Homepage of the German Federal Ministries for Economic Affairs and Energy as well as Labour and Social Affairs <http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/home/>  
Includes **Quick check** <http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/making-it/quick-check/>

Information on the German Labour Market provided by the German Embassy in Australia <http://www.australien.diplo.de/Vertretung/australien/en/07/0-Labour-and-Social-Affairs.html>

Live and Work in Germany – Testimonial <http://vimeo.com/66871155>

Living and Working in Austria. Federal Government's official information website on migration to Austria <http://www.migration.gv.at/en/>

Working in Switzerland as a foreign national. Official webpage of the Swiss Authorities Online <https://www.ch.ch/en/work-switzerland-foreign-national>

jobXchange of the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce <http://australien.ahk.de/en/services/jobxchange/>

**Internships:**

Completing an internship. Information by the German Academic Exchange Service <https://www.daad.de/deutschland/in-deutschland/arbeit/en/9149-completing-an-internship/>

Europe Internship is a free internship website and covers Germany, Austria and Switzerland <http://www.europe-internship.com>

**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](http://www.naati.com.au/home_page.html)

Goethe Institute [http://www.goethe.de/ins/au/lp/enindex.htm?wt\\_sc=australia](http://www.goethe.de/ins/au/lp/enindex.htm?wt_sc=australia)

GSAA. German Studies Association of Australia <http://gsaa.org.au/>

Association of German Teachers of Victoria <http://www.agtv.vic.edu.au/>

German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce <http://australien.ahk.de/en/>

German Missions in Australia <http://www.australien.diplo.de/Vertretung/australien/en/Startseite.html>

Austrian Embassy in Australia <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/canberra.html>

Swiss Embassy <http://www.eda.admin.ch/australia>

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade useful links

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

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

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