

Careers for Chinese Majors/Diploma of Languages in Chinese

There are a great many career fields which relate to Chinese Studies. 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 Indonesian major

- *Skills to communicate effectively in Chinese in various social and professional contexts*
- *Asia literacy - a sound understanding of cultural and social practices in China, one of the major trading partners of Australia*
- *Skills to communicate appropriately with people with various cultural backgrounds which enable balanced interpretation of various social and professional practices in the global scene*

Career fields which build on the skills and knowledge acquired through an Chinese major

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of Chinese Studies. The list is not definitive; language skills can complement almost any occupational field and create specific opportunities.

More information on many of these career fields is available at: <https://careersonline.unimelb.edu.au/students/login?ReturnUrl=%2f> (Career Research - Career Links - Arts)

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.

A word about post-Bachelor employment

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/>

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

‘A knowledge of one or more foreign languages can be useful in a wide range of careers. For some jobs, such as translating, interpreting and language teaching, language skills are the main requirement. For other jobs a combination of languages and other qualifications, knowledge or skills may be needed. For example, people with languages plus IT, law, finance or sales skills are much sought-after.’

Omniglot – Language Learning

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm>

Language as ‘core business’ – specialist language occupations

These options would be available to advanced stream students.

| 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 Chinese language | Private institutions | No specific requirements, though qualifications assist |
| Teaching Chinese Studies | Primary/Secondary schools Higher Education | Graduate Diploma in Indonesian as a Second/Foreign Language OR Master of Teaching MA Applied Linguistics; MA or PhD in Chinese Studies; |

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 <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | Politics and International studies/Asian Studies | Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies | Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - International Relations |
| Academia/research Advanced | Any field | University Research Centres | Honours Masters by research PhD |
| Librarian – Chinese/East Asian collection librarian Advanced | Arts Chinese Studies | Libraries | Graduate Diploma/Masters (Information Management/Library Studies) |
| International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | 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 Advanced | IT/Computer Science Linguistics | Software companies IT Venture business | Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science |
| Tourism – in Australia, in China <i>Intermediate to Advanced</i> | Arts Commerce | Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (eg. Airline industry) | Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management |
| TESOL | English App Linguistics Education | Teaching in China – Private institutions, Schools, Universities Teaching in Australia Universities, Colleges and language schools | MA in TESOL, some may require CELTA Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require) |
| Cultural exchange | Arts | Cultural exchange | Graduate study in |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| (project and program management roles) Beginners to advanced | | associations, industry groups eg | various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management |
| Journalism / Media | Journalism, Communication, Media Studies | Newspapers, television, radio, on-line media | Graduate employment / Graduate studies in Journalism |
| Law Proficiency advanced | Law | Law firms Companies | Graduate studies in Law – JD OR Graduate entry to undergraduate Law courses |
| Policy and Public sector Administration Beginners to advanced | Law Political Science | Consulate and embassy Government Consultant | Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law |
| Community development work, including e.g. public health, micro finance, education etc. Beginners to advanced | Development studies, anthropology, sociology, public health, commerce, etc | NGO/NPO chartable organisations Government, Intergovernmental bodies | Volunteer position Graduate Diploma/Masters in appropriate field |
| Defence and National Security Advanced | | Defence force | Defence Academy |

Links

Careers in Languages (other discussions)

Careers in Languages: <http://lrc.wfu.edu/careersinlanguages/>

Omniglot: <http://www.omniglot.com/links/careers.htm>

Career View – Victoria University of

Wellington: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/resources/career_publications/career_view/asian_and_european_languages.pdf (Asian and European Languages)

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/resources/career_publications/career_view/linguistics.pdf (Linguistics and Applied Language Studies)

Working in China

<http://www.internations.org/china-expats> (InterNations)

Organisations

Asia Institute:

<http://asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au/research>

Asialink:

<http://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/>

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters

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

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

<http://aid.dfat.gov.au/countries/eastasia/indonesia/Pages/home.aspx>

Tourism Australia:

<http://www.tourism.australia.com/>

SBS Chinese service:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/chinese/home/page/in/english>

ABC Radio Australia - Asia:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/asia/>

The Ford Foundation:

<http://www.fordfoundation.org/grants/individuals-seeking-fellowships>

Language Proficiency tests

LOTE (Language Other Than English):

http://asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au/help/undergraduate_students/lote_accreditation_exams