Language skills open up a whole world of opportunities. While careers in interpreting and translating might immediately spring to mind, you can apply language skills in a huge range of careers and jobs from teaching to working in international business and marketing. Employers are keen to recruit global graduates. Having the ability to communicate in another language is a highly desirable asset to employers.

Here is a selection of the sorts of jobs in which the ability to communicate in other languages would be a distinct advantage, complete with related information/recruitment websites.

**Translating and interpreting**

Translating and interpreting are essentially about language conversion. The main difference is that translating focuses on written text, whilst interpreting focusses on speech.

- **Translator** - [prospects.ac.uk/translator_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/translator_job_description.htm)
- **Interpreter** - [prospects.ac.uk/interpreter_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/interpreter_job_description.htm)

Translators and interpreters may find work in a range of institutions, such as:

- Government Communication Headquarters – [gchq.gov.uk](http://gchq.gov.uk)
- The European Commission has two separate language services:
  - Directorate General for Interpretation - [ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic/index_en.htm)
- The National Register of Public Service Interpreters – [nrpsi.co.uk](http://nrpsi.co.uk)
- Civil Service job search – [civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi](http://civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi)

**Education**

Detailed job profile and links to information/recruitment websites are available from:

- **Secondary school teaching** - [prospects.ac.uk/secondary_school_teacher_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/secondary_school_teacher_job_description.htm). In Scotland, a very useful resource for finding out about the role of a secondary school Modern Languages teacher and the teacher training application process is the Teach in Scotland website [teachinscotland.scot](http://teachinscotland.scot)

- **Teaching English as a second language** [prospects.ac.uk/english_as_a_foreign_language_teacher_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/english_as_a_foreign_language_teacher_job_description.htm)

Some students choose to spend time during or after their studies teaching English overseas. There are many home and overseas organisations which employ students or graduates. These range from universities and further education colleges to private language schools and summer camps – the link above will tell you more.

- **Further education lecturer** - [prospects.ac.uk/further_education_lecturer_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/further_education_lecturer_job_description.htm)
- **Higher education lecturer** - [prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm)

Academic institutions tend to advertise their academic positions on their own website, on [jobs.ac.uk](http://jobs.ac.uk), and also in the Times Higher Education Supplement [tes.co.uk](http://tes.co.uk)
Diplomatic service
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office [gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office/about/recruitment](gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office/about/recruitment) recruits graduates every year to the Fast Stream Diplomatic Service. Job profiles and links to information/recruitment websites are available from [prospects.ac.uk/diplomatic_services_operational_officer_job_description.htm](prospects.ac.uk/diplomatic_services_operational_officer_job_description.htm)

Business services
Language graduates are well placed to utilise their language skills in the world of business – there are opportunities in areas as diverse as marketing and purchasing to conference/event management and law.

Travel, tourism and hospitality
This industry offers a vast array of opportunities for graduates. From tour operator and travel agent to hotel manager and airport/ferry administrator, graduates who are able to communicate in another language will always be in demand.

Transport and distribution
Numerate language graduates may find work in the transport and distribution industries in a variety of contexts. Opportunities exist in areas such as road haulage, shipbroking and freight forwarding, all of which require graduates with well-developed language skills in order to communicate effectively with customers and partner organisations.

Voluntary organisations and charities
Language graduates may be employed by both national and international voluntary organisations and charities in a number of ways relating to the provision of health and education services, agriculture and construction.

Resources
TargetJobs - Using your language skills - [targetjobs.co.ukMcareers-advice/career-planning/435032-using-your-language-skills](targetjobs.co.ukMcareers-advice/career-planning/435032-using-your-language-skills)

TargetJobs - What can I do with a modern languages degree - [targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/degree-subjects-your-options/301040-what-can-i-do-with-a-modern-languages-degree](targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/degree-subjects-your-options/301040-what-can-i-do-with-a-modern-languages-degree)

Institute of translation and interpreting: courses - [iti.org.uk/about-industry/universities-courses](iti.org.uk/about-industry/universities-courses)

Prospects.ac.uk - job profiles and links to information/recruitment websites available from the ‘Jobs and work experience’ section of the Prospects website [prospects.ac.uk](prospects.ac.uk)