

Foreign Languages

Introduction

Guilford College's Quaker heritage has assured a continuing interest in the study of language as an instrument of international understanding. Courses are offered in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. The department offers majors in French, German, German Studies, and Spanish. All majors are expected to study abroad with an appropriate Guilford program (or another program abroad approved by the department) before graduating. Foreign language majors should also choose a related field in order to consolidate and complement their major field of study or to enhance career opportunities.

The world is tied together by many bonds--economic, diplomatic and human--and because of technological advances in transportation and communication, an increasing number of Americans rely on the knowledge of a foreign language. Concentrated study of the languages and cultures of other nations contributes significantly to the improvement of international relations. Employment possibilities for foreign language majors include the many positions available to humanities students in any field. For bilinguals there are openings in foreign countries as well as in the United States. Careers are possible in the fields of teaching, translating, foreign diplomacy, foreign correspondence, travel agencies, international airlines, import-export work, international corporations, and in agencies of the federal government. Foreign language competence is an asset to urban workers in social work, public health, and law enforcement. While graduates with skills and backgrounds only in foreign languages may encounter keen competition for jobs, as a supplement to other skills the knowledge of a foreign language is a valuable professional commodity.

[Guilford Catalog Information](#)

Related Career Titles for Foreign Language Majors

Accountant	Importer/Exporter
Advertising Manager	Intelligence Researcher
Advertising Copywriter	Intelligence Specialist
Air Traffic Assistant	International Account Manager
Archivist	International Banking Officer
Art Dealer	International Conference Planner
Auditor	International Consultant
Banking Correspondent	International Hotel Administrator
Bilingual Officers/Clerks/Tellers	International Trade Economist
Bilingual Educator	International Specialist
Bookkeeper	Investment Analyst
Civil Service Employee	Journalist
Commercial Loan Officer	Lawyer
Computer Systems Designer	Library Technician
Consultant	Linguist
Court Interpreter	Media Specialist
Cultural Attaché	Missionary
Cultural Officer	Multi-Lingual Port Receptionist
Customs/Immigration Officer	Museum Curator
Drug Enforcement Agent	Musician
Editor	National Security Agent
Escort/Interpreter/Guide	Negotiator
FBI Agent	Overseas Personnel Manager
Filmmaker	Overseas Plant Manager
Finance Director	Paralegal
Financial Planning Association	Peace Corps Volunteer
Foreign Diplomat	Performer/Video Artist
Foreign Correspondent	Pharmaceutical Representative
Foreign Exchange Trader	Pharmacist
Foreign Service Officer	Police Officer
Foreign Service Specialist	Politician
Foreign Worker	Production Supervisor
Fundraiser	Proofreader
Human Resources Director	Public Health Administrator

Publishing Specialist
Quality Control Supervisor
Radio/TV Announcer
Reporter
Salesperson
Scientific Linguist
Scientific Translator/Interpreter
Senior Credit Analyst
Teacher
Telecommunications Salesperson
TESO/ESL Teacher
Theme Designer

Travel Agent Tour Organizer
Translator
Transport Equipment Manager
Travel Writer
UNESCO Official
Writer
Professor
Interpreter
Speech Pathologist
Foreign Social Worker
Guide

Related Major Skills

- Ability to learn detailed information
- Good listening and clarifying skills
- Ability to practice for extended periods
- Command of grammar and vocabulary
- Ability to adjust to new environments
- Proficiency in speaking and writing
- Organizing ideas and people
- Appreciation for diverse cultures
- Summarizing and presenting results
- Analyzing and comparing cultures
- Ability to understand historical language change
- Think logically and quickly make analogies
- Working with original sources in many fields
- Explaining complex concepts
- Reading for content and structure
- Adapting to other culture

Related Web Sites

Job Listings/Job Search

International Career Employment Center <http://www.internationaljobs.org/fita/>
La Neta—Information on Jobs in the Spanish-speaking world (site entirely in Spanish)
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/nuevaneta/Index3.shtml>
Electronic Network for Latin American Careers and Employment <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/enlace/>
Bilingual Jobs <http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>
International Jobs, Careers, and Work Abroad <http://www.overseasjobs.com/>
The ESL Job Center <http://www.pacificnet.net/~sperling/jobcenter.html>
US Department of State Recruitment Page <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/hr/>
Action Without Borders International Nonprofit Job Listings <http://www.idealists.org/>
MonsterTrak <http://www.monstertrak.com/>
Council Exchanges Work Abroad Opportunities <http://www.councilexchanges.org/>
Jobs Abroad <http://www.jobsabroad.com/search.cfm>

Career Planning and Information

Samford University's Careers in Foreign Language <http://www.samford.edu/schools/artsci/wlc/career.htm>
Best Bets for Student Work Exchange <http://www.cie.uci.edu/iop/work.html>
Indiana University's Careers in Foreign Language <http://www.iupui.edu/~flac/FLCareers.html>
One Small Planet—Work, Study, Volunteer & Travel Abroad <http://www.onesmallplanet.com/>
University of Cincinnati's What Can I Do with a Major in Foreign Language? <http://www.uc.edu/career/students/foreignlang.htm>
Duke University's International Career Resources http://www.duke.edu/~lpmaskel/intl_general.html
SUNY-Oswego's Careers in Foreign Languages
http://www.oswego.edu/other_campus/studentcvcs/career_svcs/resources/career_booklets/bookletforeignlanguage.html

Associations and Organizations

Links to Translation Organizations <http://www.rahul.net/lai/trorg.html>
American Translators Association <http://www.atanet.org/>
Links to Foreign Language Associations http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages <http://www.tesol.org/>

National Association for Bilingual Education <http://www.nabe.org/>
International Association for Language Learning Technology <http://iall.net/>
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages <http://www.actfl.org/>

Miscellaneous Resources

Guilford College Foreign Languages Department http://www.guilford.edu/original/academic/for_lang/
Guilford College Study Abroad Department <http://www.guilford.edu/original/studyabroad/>
The Electronic Embassy <http://www.embassy.org/>
United Nations <http://www.un.org/>
National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.cal.org/nclrc/>
Old Dominion University's Foreign Language Internet Guide <http://www.lib.odu.edu/research/sguides/humforlang.shtml>
AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc. <http://www.afs.org/>
Yahoo! Regional Country Information <http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/countries/>