

Thinking about choosing to study Modern Languages at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Modern Languages in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Modern Languages may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

* MODERN LANGUAGES

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (vocabulary, grammar, literature and the cultural context for the chosen language, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Students wishing to enter a career using languages can gain entry to a wider choice of careers and courses by taking at least two languages at Advanced level. Adding Advanced level English to one or more languages could provide a wider range of career possibilities in jobs requiring strong communication skills. Modern Languages combine well with arts and humanities subjects such as History, Classics, Art and Art History. Students with an aptitude for science and languages can combine these subjects to open up possible overseas careers in science and engineering. A number of degree courses now offer these possibilities.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

Modern Languages Skills

⊗ Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:

<p><i>Research skills:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> researching a topic by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> interpreting information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed <input type="checkbox"/> summarising complex documents and reporting on research findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> reading and analysing newspaper articles, advertisements, transcripts of television programmes, radio broadcasts, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> studying works of literature produced by writers from the chosen country
<p><i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> interpreting text and writing essays and other pieces in the chosen language <input type="checkbox"/> producing business correspondence such as letters, reports, applications for jobs, etc.
<p><i>Communication skills - verbal:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and conversations <input type="checkbox"/> listening and responding to recorded and spoken language <input type="checkbox"/> giving oral presentations <input type="checkbox"/> expressing and justifying views and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> speaking the language conversationally to seek information and opinions <input type="checkbox"/> interpreting the spoken language for a non speaker
<p><i>Numerical skills:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> making simple calculations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> working out timescales, prices, exchange rates, temperatures, distances, etc.
<p><i>Cultural awareness:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrating an awareness of the social, political, economic and cultural profile of the chosen country <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrating an awareness of the customs and traditions of the chosen country <input type="checkbox"/> using appropriate language in formal and informal settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> visiting the country to experience it first hand, using the language in a spontaneous way <input type="checkbox"/> reading newspapers, watching television broadcasts and listening to radio programmes to keep up to date with what is happening in the chosen country

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- researching topics for newspaper articles, television and radio programmes
- studying and interpreting literary texts

- producing technical materials or product instructions in the chosen language
- writing business letters, completing import and export documentation, etc.

- liaising between visitors and locals in the chosen country
- giving guided tours and presentations
- acting as an interpreter for non-speakers

- working with prices and exchange rates
- working out distances and journey times

- working confidently in a foreign country in businesses seeking new markets, the diplomatic service, teaching establishments, etc.
- being able to organise and communicate information clearly and efficiently

modern languages

other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Modern Languages at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

Modern Languages

C A R E E R c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

Studying any language provides students with useful communication skills that can be relevant to almost any career. With the further integration of European Community member states there may be more opportunities for linguists. However, it should be stressed that there are very few jobs where the main task is to speak or write a language fluently. The main career areas where language skills form the core aspect of the job are interpreting, translating and teaching. Competition is fierce for interpreting with more applicants than opportunities available.

You can find out more about these and other related careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes

CRCI code	Title
K	General information on careers related to Languages, Information and Culture
K	Interpreting and Translating
F	Teaching
AD	Bilingual PA
M	Leisure, Sport and Tourism
C	Catering and Hospitality
K	Library and Information Work
PB	Journalism

There are some limited opportunities for Advanced level language students, for example in Bilingual Secretarial work after relevant training, or other work in the hotel and tourism business. Some of the latter may be seasonal or on short term contracts. A limited number of companies also offer industrial scholarships to Advanced level linguists. However, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.

- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Modern Languages. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Modern Languages students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think?
Are you interested in studying Modern Languages further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1
2
3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of * doing a degree?

Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. There are a wide variety of courses where Advanced level Modern Languages will be of direct relevance.

Degree programmes in Modern Languages

Language degrees are available in most languages, for example:

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Italian
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Danish
- Dutch
- Japanese
- Norwegian
- Russian
- Swedish

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in English may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

to name a few.

Many of these will offer 'ab initio' study starting from the basics, if you have already proved yourself competent in another language at Advanced level.

Students planning to study languages can do so in a number of ways. They can study one language in depth, or two languages together, or a language and another subject such as humanities or arts subjects. Or they can take an interdisciplinary degree where a range of courses are studied related to a theme, e.g. European Studies or International Relations. There are also applied language degrees. These do not usually cover literature at all, instead they focus on the use of language in everyday life. Some European Business degrees may provide opportunities to train in a business school abroad and gain a foreign diploma in addition to a UK degree.

Alternatively, a language degree can be taken with another subject which provides additional, specialist skills relevant to the labour market, for example, computing, accountancy, engineering, law, business studies, applied mathematics and sciences.

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at www.ucas.com

Modern Languages FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Media Studies degrees:

- over 60% of graduates entered full-time employment after completing their degree
- just over 9% entered employment overseas
- just under 19% entered further full-time study or training
- languages graduates enter a wide range of jobs – many not related to their degree subject
- popular areas of work include marketing, buying and sales where there may be scope for using the language as a secondary skill, particularly in overseas assignments
- recent trends show that nearly 12% enter commerce, industry and the public sector in jobs such as management and administration
- nearly 25% entered clerical and secretarial work.

...jobs



These are some of the jobs that Modern Languages graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- Purchasing Officer
- Public Relations Assistant
- Teaching English abroad
- Tour Director
- Account Planner
- Bank Management
- Retail Management
- College Lecturer
- Copywriter



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Careers using Languages
published by Kogan Page
- > Questions and Answers - Languages
published by Trotman
- > Careers and Jobs in Travel and Tourism
published by Kogan Page
- > Degree Course Guide, Modern Languages and European Studies
published by Trotman
- > The Travel Industry Uncovered
published by Trotman
- > Working in Tourism: The UK, Europe and Beyond
published by Vacation Work

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ Centre for Information on Language teaching and Research (CILT)
20 Bedfordbury
London WC2N 4LB
020 7379 5101
Email: info@cilt.org.uk
www.cilt.org.uk
- ▷ English Tourism Council
Thames Tower
Blacks Road
Hammersmith
London W6 9EL
020 8846 9000
www.visitbritain.org
- ▷ Institute of Linguists
Saxon House
48 Southwark Street
London SE1 1UN
020 7940 3100
Email: info@iol.org.uk
www.iol.org.uk
- ▷ Institute of Travel and Tourism
PO Box 217
Ware
Herts SG12 8WY
0870 770 7960
Email: enquiries@itt.co.uk
www.itt.co.uk
- ▷ Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
Professional Qualifications
7 Ridgmount Street
London WC1E 7AE
020 7255 0500
Email: info@cilip.org.uk
www.cilip.org.uk
- ▷ Springboard UK (Hotel and Catering Careers)
3 Denmark Street
London WC2 8LP
020 7497 8654
www.springboarduk.org.uk