

MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

<http://mcl.gmu.edu/>

Name and description of the field.

Concentrations are available in French, Spanish, and Russian Studies. Foreign language major programs provide training in the skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing the major language. Students also develop their ability to analyze and evaluate the culture and literature of the countries where the language is spoken.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

Previous experience in the major language is helpful, but not necessary. Successful foreign language students are good writers in their first language and have the desire to communicate like speakers of the major language.

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

Only the B.A. is available.

Is a Minor available? Yes, minors are available in Chinese, French, German, Latin, Russian, Spanish, and Classical Studies. A new minor in Japanese will be available beginning in fall 2008.

What are recent graduates doing?

Individuals are attending graduate school in foreign languages, law, education, and international studies, or working in public and private international organizations, in international business, or teaching. Many foreign language majors enter positions in which they do not use their major language directly; rather, they use the analytical and communications skills which the major helps develop. Because Spanish is no longer a foreign language in the U.S., Spanish speakers have particular opportunities in federal, state and local government retailing and service industries.

Sample job titles of recent graduates with foreign language proficiency:

Embassy Staff	Export/Import Coordinator	Assistant Manager/Retail
Teacher, Foreign Languages	Dispute Settlement Specialist	Program Analyst
Teacher, ESL	Concierge	Development/Fundraising Asst.
Administrative Assistant	International Consulting Associate	Research Assistant Analyst
Customer Service Representative	Bi-lingual Secretary	International Document Indexer
Translator	Public Affairs Specialist	Education Coordinator/Spec
Program Assistant-Int'l Visitors	International Marketing Representative	International Scholarship Student
Account Executive	Writer	Visa Consultant
	Realtor	

Sample organizations employing recent graduates with foreign language proficiency:

Fairfax County School System	Peace Corps
Prince William County Schools	The Nature Conservancy
National Communication Consultants	Visa Advisors
Airborne Express	Knowledge Company
Phelps Stokes Fund	Brauns International
Council of Better Business Bureau	Federal Public Defenders' Office
Personal Library Software	Disclosure, Inc.
John Snow, Inc.	Pan American Development Foundation
Greenbrier Learning Center	Meridian International Center
Inter-American Foundation	Smithsonian Institute
US Department of State	Central Intelligence Agency
Alcatel ITS, Inc.	Center for International Business & Travel
The International Center	National Democratic Inst. for International Affairs
Atlantic Council of the US	New World Radio
Agency for International Development	Int'l Business & Technical Consultants, Inc.

EXPLORING MAJORS

Printed Resources - Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/intl.pdf>
to see resources located in the Career Services Library, 348 SUB I.

Online Resources: - Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/intl.htm>
<http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/frln.htm>

Whom should students contact for further information?

Dr. Laura Fyfe (French)
Dr. Mark Goldin (Spanish)
Department of Modern and Classical Languages
233 Thompson Hall
703-993-1220 or 1221

Academic Advising Center
304 SUB I
703-993-2470

Elena Chiru
University Career Services
348 SUB I
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