What Can I Do with a Major in MODERN LANGUAGES

How to use this guide
DePaul’s Career Roadmap was designed to help students and alumni navigate the career development process by describing the Career Center’s services and resources as they relate to four steps: Know Yourself, Explore and Choose Options, Gain Knowledge and Experience, and Putting it all Together. This major guide uses the same four steps to help you explore and consider the possibility of pursuing a degree in Modern Languages:

Step 1 Know Yourself: Helps you explore whether this field suits your interests, skills, and values.
Step 2 Explore and Choose Options: Provides you with information about the major and occupations related to it.
Step 3 Gain Knowledge and Experience: Teaches you how to gain relevant knowledge and experience for your occupational interest.
Step 4 Putting It All Together: Helps you embark on your job search process.

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**Step 1: Know Yourself**

*Think about what has attracted you to Modern Languages and why it might be the right major for you. Take some time to consider your interests, skills, and values, and compare them with the information below. Keep in mind that you may not identify with everything noted below, but be conscious of whether the listed interests, skills, and values complement or run contrary to how you identify.*

**Interests, Skills, and Values:**

People who major in Modern Languages often have:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working with others</td>
<td>Evaluating information</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching/Education</td>
<td>Speaking to groups</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural/International</td>
<td>Writing clearly</td>
<td>Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Attentive listening</td>
<td>Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Mastery of another language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Summarizing ideas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If what is listed above matches, or is related in a way to your own interests, skills and values, a degree in Modern Languages may be for you. Continue to explore this resource to learn more.

**Another Look at Interests:**

*John Holland’s Occupational Themes*

Learning about your interests will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to. John Holland developed a theory of occupational interests that described six major interest areas (learn about all six interest areas [here](#)). Of those six interest areas, Modern Language students often identify with interests in the following categories:

**Artistic** — Artistic occupations frequently involve working with forms, designs and patterns. They often require self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

**Social** — Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

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**Learn more about “Step 1: Knowing Yourself”…Check out these Career Center Workshops**

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) - Work Values
- Skills and Accomplishments - Strong Interest Explorer
Step 2: Explore and Choose Options

Whether you have already chosen Modern Languages as a major or are still considering it among other possibilities, it is important to explore the career and academic options this major will open up for you.

Potential Career Areas:
Below is a list of potential interest areas for those pursuing a job using a Modern Languages Degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communications</th>
<th>A career in communications may incorporate interests such as writing, presenting, researching, designing, and brainstorming. These careers may involve working well individually and on a team.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>A career in education incorporates interests in helping others, oral and written communications, creativity in methods and lesson design, a desire to learn, and working with a diverse population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Business/Organizational Development</td>
<td>Careers in this field may incorporate oral and written communication, training, management, finance, consulting with diverse populations, research, networking, and interpersonal skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government and Armed Forces</td>
<td>Careers in government and the armed forces incorporate interests in helping others, investigation, attention to detail, and working well in a structured environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Tourism</td>
<td>Careers in travel and tourism may incorporate strong interpersonal skills, an ability work well individually as well as with others, organizational skills, adaptability, and a desire to work with diverse populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
<td>With a career in the non-profit sector, you will likely utilize interpersonal and communication skills, work with diverse populations, and have a desire to help others and/or contribute to an organization’s mission.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum:
Please follow this link to review the curriculum for a degree in Modern Languages. Also, note the classes you will need to take.

Learn more about these classes:
http://sr.depaul.edu/catalog/catalogfiles/Current/Undergraduate%20Course%20Descriptions/pg82.html
## Languages Offered at DePaul:

| Majors                              | Arabic Studies  
|                                     | Chinese Studies  
|                                     | French         
|                                     | German         
|                                     | Italian        
|                                     | Japanese Studies  
|                                     | Spanish        
|                                     | Teaching Major in Modern Languages |
| Minors                              | Arabic         
|                                     | Chinese        
|                                     | French         
|                                     | German         
|                                     | Italian        
|                                     | Japanese       
|                                     | Russian        
|                                     | Spanish        
|                                     | French Translation  
|                                     | Commercial Language Minor in French or Spanish  
|                                     | Studies Minor in Arabic, Chinese, Classical, German, Japanese, or Russian  
|                                     | Custom Minor in Language or Studies |
| Additional Language Courses         | American Sign Language  
| See course listings; not offered every quarter | Ancient Greek  
|                                     | Latin          |
**Occupations:**
The following list, organized by areas of potential interest, offers a *sampling* of career paths that might appeal to Modern Languages students. It is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting, but rather is intended to provide you with a starting point for considering the possibilities.

| Communications | Conference Interpreters  
| Freelance Conference Interpreting  
| Escort Interpreters  
| Courtroom Interpreters  
| Scientific Translator/Interpreter  
| Bilingual Officers/Clerks/Tellers  
| Multi-Lingual Port Receptionist  
| Linguist*  
| Journalist*  
| Photographer*  
| Proofreader  
| Telecommunications Sales  
| Customer Service Representative  
| International Marketing/Marketing Research*  
| Recruiter  
| Advertising Executive*  
| Education | Library Technician*  
| TESO/ESL Teacher*  
| Professor*  
| Study Abroad Program Coordinator  
| International Student Department Administrator  
| Cultural Advisor  
| Anthropologist*  
| International Business/Organizational Development | International Account Manager*  
| International Banking Officer*  
| International Conference Planner  
| International Consultant  
| International Trade Economist*  
| International Trade Specialist*  
| Importer/Exporter  
| Foreign Correspondent  
| Human Resources Representative*  
| Brand Manager*  
| Event Manager  
| Government and Armed Forces | FBI Agent*  
| Civil Service Employee  
| National Security Agent  
| CIA Agent/Intelligence Specialist*  
| Intelligence Researcher  
| Customs/Immigration Officer  
| Foreign Service Officer  
| Foreign Diplomat*  
|
Agency for International Development (AID): accountant, auditor, budget analyst, business analyst, information officer, loan officer and personnel specialist

**Travel and Tourism**
- Travel Agent/Tour Organizer
- International Hotel Administrator
- Study Abroad Coordinator
- Government-sponsored Tourism Promoter
- Travel Writer
- Airline Employee/Flight Attendant

**Non-Profit**
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Missionary
- Refugee Integration Specialist*
- Social Worker*
- Psychologist/Counselor*

* These occupations may require additional training and/or a graduate or doctoral degree. Speak with a Career Advisor to learn more
+ May need additional coursework beyond Modern Languages Degree, see a career advisor

Learn more: **O*NET**: Source of detailed descriptions of different occupations including its job responsibilities, educational requirements, typically associated interests and values, job outlook and more. http://www.onetonline.org/

**Occupational Outlook Handbook**
http://www.bls.gov/home.htm

**Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK):**
Learn from DePaul alumni about how they have used their Modern Languages degree. ASK is a great way to begin building your network by connecting with these mentors. Below is a *sample* of job titles reported by alumni with Modern Languages degrees:

CEO/President/Top Executive
Office Assistant: Stewardship & Donor Relations, Corporate Relations, Meetings & Events
Founder and Consultant
Professional School Counselor
Director of Special Services Position
Associate Director for Public Service
Senior Project Manager
Client Outreach Coordinator
Attorney

Learn more on how to connect with alumni: http://ask.depaul.edu/
Online Resources:
Research more about Modern Languages:

- [http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/modernlanguages.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/modernlanguages.htm)
- [http://ml.hss.cmu.edu/ml/modlangcareers.html](http://ml.hss.cmu.edu/ml/modlangcareers.html)
- [http://www.languageswork.org.uk/career_choices.aspx](http://www.languageswork.org.uk/career_choices.aspx)
- [http://world.std.com/~ric/what_is_int.html](http://world.std.com/~ric/what_is_int.html)
- [http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/sep/18/modern-languages-graduate-careers](http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2010/sep/18/modern-languages-graduate-careers)

Learn more about “Step 2: Explore and Choose Options”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- LinkedIn & Other Social Media
- Networking Skills
**Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience**

Complementing your coursework in Modern Languages with internship, volunteer, work, and organization experiences is one of the smartest moves you can make in relation to your career development. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge you are gaining in the classroom, while also developing content for your resume in preparation for future opportunities.

**Internships:**
Here is a *sample* list of internships you might consider while pursuing a degree in Modern Languages. Please note, any mentioned internship below is not restricted to its respective area.

| Communications | Journalism/Media/PR Intern  
| | Translating/Interpreting Intern  
| | Legal Translator and Interpreter  
| | Linguistics Research Assistant  
| | Intergenerational Visiting Intern  
| | Copywriter Intern  
| Education | ESL/Foreign Language Teaching Assistant  
| | Volunteer English Teacher Abroad  
| | Study Abroad Intern  
| | Early Childhood/Elementary/Secondary Education Intern  
| | Community Education Manager Intern  
| | Curriculum Specialist  
| International Business/Organizational Development | Finance Intern  
| | Consulting Intern  
| | Branding Intern  
| | Human Resources Intern  
| | Business / International / E-business Intern  
| | Work and Travel Programs Intern  
| | Japan Baseball Administration Intern  
| Government and Armed Forces | UN/FBI/Government Intern  
| | Campaign Intern  
| | Public Service Intern  
| Travel and Tourism | Hotel/Hospitality Intern  
| | Travel Agency Intern  
| | Foreign Country Information Center Intern  
| | Guest Services Intern  
| Non-Profit | Peace Corps, Field Reporting Red Cross Intern  
| | International Aid Agency Intern  
| | Research Study Coordinator  
| | Brazil Hunger Research Fellow  
| | Immigrant and Refugee Rights Intern  

Search and apply for internships listed by employers specifically seeking DePaul candidates at: [http://depaul.experience.com](http://depaul.experience.com)
Find Internships:
Visit these sites to search and apply for more internships:

DePaul Resources:

Modern Languages Specific Resources:
- Top Language Jobs: http://www.toplanguagejobs.co.uk/
- Bilingual Jobs: http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/

Additional Resources:
- Indeed.com: http://www.indeed.com
- Collegegrad.com: http://www.collegegrad.com
- CollegeRecruiter.com: http://www.collegerecruiter.com
- Careeronestop.org: http://www.careeronestop.org
- Careerbuilder.com: http://careerbuilder.com

Student Organizations and Professional Organizations:
To gain more knowledge and experience, as well as to network and build your resume, consider joining student and professional organizations related to Modern Languages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Organizations</th>
<th>Student Organizations at DePaul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Translators Association</td>
<td>Achieving Immigrant Rights &amp; Equality – DePaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.atanet.org/">http://www.atanet.org/</a></td>
<td>Community Service Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Language Association</td>
<td>Ahora DePaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.mla.org/">http://www.mla.org/</a></td>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association for Applied Linguistics</td>
<td>Center for Intercultural Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.aaal.org/">http://www.aaal.org/</a></td>
<td>DePaul Deutsch Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages</td>
<td>DePaul University French Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.actfl.org/">http://www.actfl.org/</a></td>
<td>Future Global Executives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters</td>
<td>Global Brigades at DePaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.matiata.org/">http://www.matiata.org/</a></td>
<td>Global Learning Overseas By Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GlobeMed at DePaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Association of Business Communicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Orphans Union</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model United Nations – Society for International Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NiHao DeBao Mandarin Language Club</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oxfam – DePaul Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pangea Educational Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worldwide Orphanage Relief Corporation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Research and Guide Books:**
Find these and more Modern Languages research and guide books at DePaul’s libraries.

- Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados & Other Multilingual Types by Laurence Day
- Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages by Blythe Camenson

Learn more about the library and how to borrow these books: [http://library.depaul.edu/](http://library.depaul.edu/)

**Graduate and Doctoral Programs:**
List of other University programs:

U.S. News and World Report Graduate Schools Rankings:

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**Learn more about “Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience”…Check out these Career Center Workshops**

| - How to Prepare for Graduate School            | - Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Orientation |
| - How to Work a Job & Internship Fair           | - iPrep: Find Your Dream Internship         |
| - University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation| - Navigating Student Employment              |
Step 4: Putting it all Together

The job search process can be challenging, but with the right tools, guidance, and persistence, success can be yours. Below are a number of resources that you are invited to take advantage of as a DePaul student and/or alumni.

Career Advisors for Modern Languages:
If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Lincoln Park Career Center at 773-325-7431.

Attend Workshops:
The Career Center's career development workshops are designed to help you build and strengthen your career-related skills so you can make well-informed decisions and prepare for your job or internship search.

The Career Center offers free workshops on over 25 topics throughout the year, including resume writing, interviewing skills, effective self-marketing techniques, networking, managing your career path and many more. Workshops facilitators have in-depth knowledge in the topics covered and allow you the opportunity to ask questions throughout each session.

Pre-register for all workshops online through DePaulExperience.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/default.aspx
**Prepare your Resume:**
Depending on the internship or job you are applying to, consider including the following types of information on your resume:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Level Professionals</th>
<th>Experienced Professionals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Education</td>
<td>● Career Summary/Summary of Qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Study Abroad</td>
<td>● Relevant Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Relevant Coursework</td>
<td>● Certifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Relevant Experience from jobs and internships</td>
<td>● Professional Affiliations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Volunteer Experience</td>
<td>● Publications/Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Organizations/Memberships/Activities</td>
<td>● Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Honors and Awards</td>
<td>● Volunteer Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Language and Computer Skills</td>
<td>● Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view resume samples and an online resume tutorial, visit: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/student/resume/resumes.aspx

Or meet with a Peer Career Advisor to plan, develop and/or critique your resume. Peer Career Advising is a good place for students and alumni to begin the process of career planning. The Peer Career Advisors are undergraduate and graduate students who have been carefully selected and trained by the Career Center to work with students and alumni in an advisory capacity.

**Prepare for Interviews:**
To prepare for an interview for an internship or job, the Career Center offers:

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Practice Interviews** – Sign up in DePaul.Experience for a practice interview with DePaul alum. This real interview scenario will allow you to gain feedback from your practice interviewer on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Mentors** – ASK mentors are willing to meet with you individually to help you with your interviewing skills. ASK mentors are a good option to consider as they have valuable industry-specific interviewing tips.
- **Peer Career Advisors** – Meet with a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a mock interview. Peer Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you need quick interviewing help.
- **Career Advisors** – Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a more advanced mock interview. Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you are seeking more job specific interviewing tips.
- **Career Center Workshops** – Register for such interviewing workshops as “Interviewing Skills” or “Advanced Interviewing Skills” in DePaul.Experience.
- **For other interviewing resources** – Please visit: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/student/resume/interviewing.aspx
Salary Resources:

- Salary.com: http://www.salary.com
- Wage web: http://www.wageweb.com
- NACE Salary Survey 2008: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_downloads/sschartSP08.gif
- Indeed.com’s Salary Search: http://www.indeed.com/salary
- Vault.com’s Salaries and Compensation: http://www.vault.com/salaries.jsp

Learn more about “Step 4: Putting it all Together”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Build a Portfolio
- Job Search Strategies in a Challenging Job Market

- Negotiation Skills
- Interviewing Skills