



Careers for Language Specialists

Department of Modern Languages
University of Texas at Arlington

MODL graduates are prepared for job opportunities in a wide range of fields, and to continue their education through professional or graduate school.

SKILLS

The skills they develop through language study are useful in our increasingly interconnected world. This core set of skills is sought after by employers in a wide range of occupations.

Here is a sampling of representative skills and abilities:¹

Communication

- Multilingualism
- Cross-cultural communication
- Expressing & understanding multiple viewpoints
- Presenting information logically
- Reading critically
- Writing effectively
- Linguistic sophistication

Human Relations

- Understanding cultural differences
- Sensitivity to cultural issues
- Flexibility in thinking and learning
- Ability to adjust to new environments
- Appreciation of cultural history, literature, politics, music, etc.

Critical Thinking

- Thinking collaboratively
- Analyzing information, cultures, and complex problems
- Comparing & contrasting interpretations
- Offering diverse perspectives
- Assessing cultural differences
- Synthesizing themes
- Research skills

Problem Solving

- Assessing needs
- Defining problems
- Understanding alternative perspectives
- Gathering information from a variety of sources
- Weighing alternatives
- Generating creative solutions

¹ Adapted from Georgetown University, Cawley Career Development Center "What Can I Do with My Language Major?"

CAREER PATHS FOR MODL GRADUATES

MODL graduates work in the following fields and occupations:

- Advertising
- Armed forces
- Attorney
- Broadcasting
- Charities/NGO's
- Communications/Creative services
- Community organizer
- Consultant
- Cultural heritage sector: museums, libraries, and archives
- Customs agent
- Digital and Social Media Marketing
- E-commerce
- Editorial assistant
- Government agency
- Health care services
- Human resources
- Immigration counseling
- Instructional specialist
- International marketing
- International relations
- Interpreter
- Journalist/Writer
- Language services industry—localization and translation
- Law enforcement
- Office management, administration
- Peace Corps
- Professor
- Project Engineer/Localization
- Project Manager/Localization
- Public relations
- Sales
- Social media industry (e.g. Facebook, Snapchat)
- Teacher
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Translator
- Web editor

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS

[American Association of Language Specialists](#)

American Association of Teachers of:

- [Arabic](#)
- [French](#)
- [German](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Slavic and East European Languages](#)
- [Spanish and Portuguese](#)

[American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#)

[American Sign Language Teachers Association](#)

[American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association](#)

[American Translators Association](#)

[Chinese Language Teachers Association](#)

[Globalization and Localization Association](#)

[International Medical Interpreters Association](#)

[Modern Language Association](#)

[National Association for Bilingual Education](#)

[National Association of Judiciary Interpreters](#)

[Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators](#)

[Texas Foreign Language Association](#)

CAREER PLANNING AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

For more information about career planning, and the development of skills to present your best self professionally, contact [UTA's Lockheed Martin Career Development Center](#).