What to do with a degree in ... **A MODERN LANGUAGE**

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre
dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

Why Study a New Language?

Whether your second or your seventh, learning a new language has big benefits. It can, for example ease international trade and travel, make you more competitive in the job market, open new worlds of scholarship and knowledge, whether past or present and allow you to immerse yourself more fully in another culture and its creative arts. [Languages at Dal Webpage]

Like many degrees options, majoring in a modern language does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you with the skills and competencies to explore many areas. It also provides the added advantage of opening job opportunities abroad.

The career options available to you will depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind the language of study, minors you may have taken, significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs the skills you have developed by studying a modern language may make you especially competitive in the following areas:

- Politics
- Communications
- Cultural Organizations
- Government
- Financial Institutions
- International Business
- Languages Schools
- Customer Service
- Education
- Translation and Interpretation
- Travel Organizations
- Broadcasting Companies

It is also important to identify positions outside of your field but within your skill set. Learning a new language will have helped you develop a number of marketable transferable skills. These can be used can be used to help you pursue a career that best suits your interests and talents. Some skill you will have learned include:

- Communication Skills
- Intercultural Competence
- Self-directed Learning
- Meeting Deadlines
- Presenting Information
- Listening Critically
- Analysis Skills
- Research
- Organizing Materials

Many graduates who studied a modern language seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available with further education:

- Translator/Interpreter
- Human Rights Officer
- Police Officer
- International Accountant
- Lawyer
- Linguist
- University Professor
- Import/Export Compliance
- Teacher

With the many options a graduate with a modern language degree can take, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Developing your skills, experience and network

Opportunities in Your Program

Study Abroad - All modern language students have the opportunity to study abroad and receive credit.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many different avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider:

- Joining a Student Society
- Participating in a Study Abroad Program
- Joining DALConnects
- Attend Special Events
- Joining an Athletic Club
- Attending a Conference

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work are another great way to develop experience. They give you the chance to develop specialties and discover what you like in a job. Even if your summer job doesn’t directly relate to your field you can focus on building transferable skills. Check out these great resources:

**Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)**
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

**Talent Egg**
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

**Volunteer Halifax**
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

**Fusion Halifax**
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. This is especially true for graduate students. If you would like to pursue a membership student discounts are often available.

If you are an undergraduate keep your eyes open for any undergraduate conferences around Halifax. Below is an example of an event worth examining.

- Bilingual Job Fair Canada
  - http://www.bilingualjobfairscanada.com
- Modern Language Association
  - https://www.mla.org/
Language Offerings at Dal

- English
- French
- German
- Russian
- Spanish
- Arabic
- Italian
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Portuguese
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Latin

Why learn your new language at Dal?

Whether you want to major in a language, add a language minor to another program, or simply take a course or two, you can take advantage of Dalhousie’s remarkable strengths in language teaching and scholarship.

As well as a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs in English and French, Canada’s official languages, we offer programs in some of the languages most commonly spoken around the world.

Dalhousie offers both Bachelors and Masters degrees in German; full undergraduate programs in Russian and Spanish; and rich and dynamic Minors in Arabic, Italian and Chinese (Mandarin). Sometimes, too, they offer courses in other important world languages, such as Portuguese.

Dalhousie also has a unique position as a centre where the Classical languages of Greek, Hebrew, and Latin, the sources of many modern languages, are taught within a program of study of Ancient cultures which retain real relevance to contemporary world issues. We offer established study abroad opportunities and exchanges to support language learning. We also offer a Certificate in Intercultural Communication that links language learning to cultural competency in a world of rapid and intensifying exchanges.

[Languages at Dal Webpage]
There are many other established Modern Language programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable schools with Modern Language programs as identified by 2013-2014 QS world University Rankings:

**University of Toronto #14**

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Subject areas: French, German, Italian, Slavic Languages, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**McGill University #35**

Location: Montreal, Quebec

Subject areas: German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, Russian Studies, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.

**University of British of Columbia #51-100**

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia

Subject areas: French Studies, Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, Portuguese, and English.

**Université de Montréal #101-150**

Location: Montreal, Quebec

Subject areas: Arabic Language and Culture, Chinese Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Greek Language and Culture, Hispanic Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, Korean Language and Culture, Latin Language and Culture, Luso-Brazilian Language and Culture, and Vietnamese Language and Culture.

**University of Alberta #101-150**

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Subject areas: Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.
Given the broad array of directions you can take after learning a language, it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So it is important to first identify the sectors that bilingual alumni work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni who studies French Language and Literature it appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Education
- Media and Communication
- Entrepreneurship
- Operations
- Legal
- Research
- Healthcare Services
- Community and Social Services
- Administrative

Common places they work include:

- Provincial Governments
- Hospitals
- Banks
- Post-Secondary Schools
- Tutoring Companies

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

**Good Outlook**

(3 out of 3 stars)

The best job outlooks for multilingual individuals within Nova Scotia are in nursing, sales, finance, retail trade, restaurant and food services, and computer software engineering.

**Fair Outlook**

(2 out of 3 stars)

There are many opportunities for individuals who studied a language in university with a fair outlook. Education related positions such as college instructors and educational counsellors. Marketing jobs including public relations and communications, and marketing researchers. As well HR specialists, bankers, real estate agents, and social workers all have fair outlooks within Nova Scotia.

**Limited Outlook**

(1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook the arts and culture occupations as well as, journalists, customs officers, government program officers, and secondary and elementary school teachers.
Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada’s labour market.

Print

The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Senor Media inc.
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009). James Mulvey


Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Second Language Teacher

Position: Full Time  Salary: $18 to $24  30 hours per week

Language school seeks candidate to teach adults a second language, tutoring/one-on-one instruction and in groups of no more than 4-6 people in a classroom setting.

Duties

• Prepare teaching materials and outlines for courses
• Prepare, administer and mark tests and papers to evaluate students’ progress
• Develop course content
• Conduct course and program evaluation or review
• Practical experience related to area of instruction

Qualifications & Skills

• Completion of a University Degree.
• Fully Bilingual both written and oral.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
• Job task planning and organizing: experience in designing curricula, finding information.
• Use audio-visual equipment and prepare reports.
• Ability to work with others, problem solving and decision making.
• Recent experience in the use of various second language teaching methods, including information technology.
• Prior experience as an instructor is considered an asset.

Make sure you tailor your resume to the position by examining the responsibilities and matching your experiences with them. By examining job ads you can identify skills/experience gaps you should develop throughout school.

List your degree and language you studied.

May want to focus attention on any major written work you have put together inside or outside school.

You may want to list a class that you developed these skills in.

Skills you can hone while volunteering or by doing an internship.

Experience can be developed through volunteer work.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

Shane LeBlanc, Coordinator, Career Programming
shane.leblanc@dal.ca