

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

---

### OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

The [UNM Foreign Languages & Literatures \(2013\)](#) program provides students with “both excellent language instruction from beginning to advanced levels, as well as the opportunity to study world literature and culture in the original language.” The program also understand that students “proficiency in a foreign language can be a crucial element of a successful career”, so it is important that students think about enhancing their language study by combining it with fields such as International Studies. Employers in many global industries, including business, international, education, and government, seek out graduates who are cultural awareness and sensitivity, as well as being proficient in multiple languages that are developed in the Foreign Languages & Literatures program.

### EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. Some careers may require a graduate degree. Consult [O\\*Net](#) for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The [UNM Foreign Languages & Literature](#) program offers 15 majors, minors, and languages available, especially for students who are interested in pursuing careers in business, government, and teaching or traveling.

### INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

#### **Government**

Translation/interpretation, journalism, linguistics, diplomacy, civil service, Foreign Service, immigration/naturalization, US customs, intelligence/law enforcement (e.g., FBI, CIA, DEA)

#### **Arts, Media, Entertainment**

Advertising, translation/Interpretation, journalism/broadcasting, publishing/editing, PR

#### **Industry & Commerce**

Banking/Finance, sales, customer services, manufacturing, engineering/technical, research, operations manager, consulting, import/export, administrative services

#### **Travel & Tourism**

Airlines, management, booking/reservations, travel services/guidance

#### **Interpretation/Translation**

Interpretation (simultaneous, consecutive, conference, escort/guide, judiciary), translation (literary, localization, medical), freelance, education, business services, government agencies, healthcare, courts, publishers

#### **Service & Education:**

Teaching, educational administration, linguistics, civic service, social work, mission work, library science, health services

#### **Law/Politics**

Law, lobbying, government relations, public policy, research, immigration services, campaign management, elected/appointed civil servants

**SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:**

- Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area.
- Consider attending a specialized language school that teaches foreign languages (e.g., Monterrey Institute).
- Learn a third language for greater opportunities.
- Spend a semester studying abroad.
- Consider teaching English in another country.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in international internships, student employment, [Co-ops](#), and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Research firms with international interests.
- Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find more organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend [career-related campus events](#) such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department's website, list-serv, newsletters, and [social media sites](#).
- Focus on developing "transferable skills" such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
- Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
- Obtain experience with a campus newspaper or media.
- Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
- Make sure to research organizational values in order to match with your own value set. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you've done your research and are committed to work for them.
- Find out which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.
- Volunteer with Peace Corps, Teach for America, AmeriCorps, or VISTA to gain experience.

**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

One Small Planet	<a href="http://www.onesmallplanet.com/">http://www.onesmallplanet.com/</a>
Escape Artist: Jobs Overseas	<a href="http://www.escapeartist.com/jobs/overseas1.htm">http://www.escapeartist.com/jobs/overseas1.htm</a>
Overseas Jobs.com	<a href="http://www.overseasjobs.com/">http://www.overseasjobs.com/</a>
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages	<a href="http://www.tesol.org/">http://www.tesol.org/</a>
American Translators Association	<a href="http://www.atanet.org/">http://www.atanet.org/</a>
Riley Guide: International Jobs	<a href="http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html">http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html</a>
Department of State	<a href="http://www.state.gov/">http://www.state.gov/</a>
LatPro	<a href="http://www.latpro.com/index.php">http://www.latpro.com/index.php</a>
Trabajos	<a href="http://www.trabajos.com/">http://www.trabajos.com/</a>
Latin American Network Information Center	<a href="http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/">http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/</a>
Peace Corps	<a href="http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm">http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm</a>
Foreign Policy Association	<a href="http://www.fpa.org/">http://www.fpa.org/</a>

<http://onetonline.org><http://www.bls.gov/>**REFERENCE**

University of New Mexico, Foreign Languages & Literatures (2013). Retrieved from <http://fil.unm.edu/>