

Careers Newsletter

With an additional supplement on the importance
of studying languages

November 2020

Contents

Forward from Mrs Tearle – Head of Languages Faculty at Stowe School	2
HIGHER EDUCATION	5
Arts and Sciences (BASc) Programmes at University College, London	5
Jump in University Applications for Oxbridge and Medicine in 2021.....	5
Arts and Sciences (BASc) Programmes at University College, London	5
9 Awesome Careers You Can Get With Any Degree	5
CAREERS	6
IBM Futures 12 Month Placement Scheme	6
Hear From an Apprentice in Digital Marketing.....	6
Which Occupations are seeing a Growth in Demand?	6
Machines to ‘Do Half of all Work Tasks by 2025’	6
What are languages?	7
What do you learn with a languages degree?	7
What should I study at senior school if I want to do a languages degree?	7
What do people who studied languages do after graduation?	8
Working and living in Spain - Understanding the Spanish business culture – Mr Morales-Shearer - Head of Spanish	8
Just languages? Oxford University? – Lisa Battilomo (Old Stoic).....	13
Language learning and employability in 2020 by EEND - Emilie Danis – Head of French	14
Our Thoughts on Studying French at Stowe - Jacob Ford-Langstaff (Upper 6 th Winton) and Mathis Blandin (Upper 6 th Winton).....	16
Studying two languages at A level at Stowe – Ollie De Winton (Upper 6 th West).....	17

Forward from Mrs Tearle – Head of Languages Faculty at Stowe School

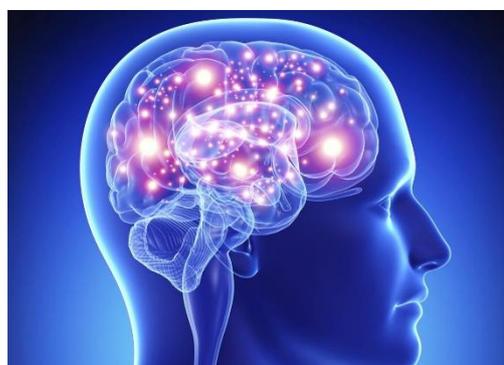
The question I get asked more than any other when people know I was brought up bilingually is: “What language do you dream in?” The first time someone asked me that question, I had no answer, so I made a conscious effort to delve into my sub-conscious next time I was asleep to remember what and how I dreamt. The answer was simple. Whenever I dreamt about my mother or my brother, I dreamt in German; when I dreamt about school or my school friends it was in French, and now that I live and work in England, dreams that are centred around my work are in English. My mother never speaks English in my dreams and my Husband never speaks German. That would be weird. It is as if my brain knows, even when I am asleep, what language to attribute to certain people, in a certain context. This has made me wonder if my “bilingual” brain works in the same way as a “monolingual” one, and the



answer is, probably not. I was brought up in Paris, but my mother tongue is German. As my father’s German was very poor, I have been used to switch language mid-sentence from a very early age, never getting confused with either. Even as a very young child, my brain seemed to know when to use French and when to use German. Having learnt two languages simultaneously also meant that learning other languages came relatively easy to me. I certainly consider myself very lucky to have been brought-up bilingually. As many studies have shown, after the age of 8 language acquisition becomes more difficult, as we use different parts of the brain to learn and store information. However, the benefits of learning another language at any age are huge. Here are the top 10 benefits according the Eton Institute:

1. Boosts Brain Power

A foreign language is a whole new intricate system of rules, structures, and lexis. Learning a new language means your brain has to cope with complexity as it makes sense of and absorbs new patterns. As our brains work out the meaning, endeavouring to communicate, we develop key learning skills such as cognitive thinking and problem-solving. Highly developed critical thinking skills are a significant benefit both personally and professionally.



2. Improves Memory

Use it or lose it. How many times have you heard that phrase? It is a simple fact – the more the brain is used, the better its functions work. A new language requires not only familiarity with vocabulary and rules, but also being able to recall and apply this knowledge. Learning a language gives your memory a good work out. This means that multilingual people have brains that are more exercised and quicker to recall names, directions, facts, and figures.

3. Enhances The Ability To Multi-Task

Multi-tasking is very stressful for those who are not used to it. According to a study from the Pennsylvania State University, people who are multilingual and proficient at slipping from one language system to another are practised at this very demanding work for the brain. People who have developed the ability to think in different languages and move from one to the other become much better multi-taskers, reducing stress levels.

4. Sharpens The Mind

A study from Spain's University of Pompeu Fabra revealed that multilingual people are better at observing their surroundings. They easily spot anything that is irrelevant or deceptive. They're also better at spotting misleading information. The study was conducted comparing multilingual and monolingual subjects and the former notably had the edge.

5. Keeps The Mind Sharper For Longer

Several studies have been conducted on this topic, and the results are consistent. Language learning keeps your brain healthy. For monolingual adults, the mean age for the first signs of dementia is 71.4. For adults who speak two or more languages, the mean age for those first signs is 75.5. Studies considered factors such as education level, income level, gender, and physical health, but the results were consistent.

6. Enhances Decision-Making

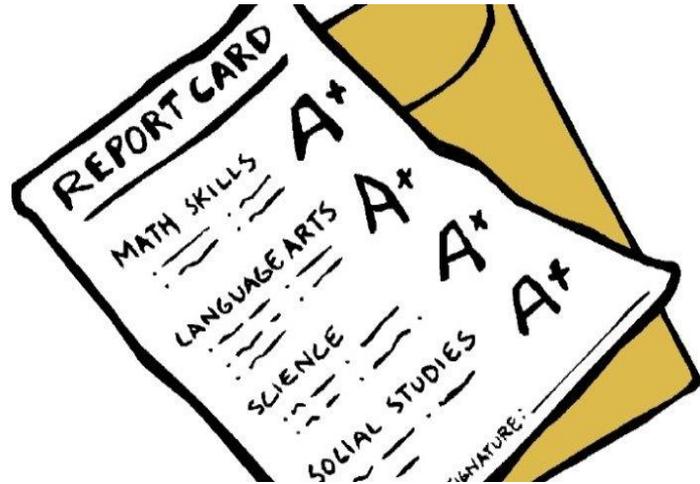
According to a study from the University of Chicago, decision-making ability becomes an easier process for multilingual people. Aside from the rules and vocabulary that go with learning a foreign language, there are nuances and regional expressions that a student of language frequently judges for appropriateness and hidden meanings. Multilinguals are more confident in their decision-making choices as a result of practice, practice, practice!

7. The First Language Is Improved

Learning a new language makes you more conscious of the nuts and bolts of your own language. Terms such as vocabulary, grammar, conjugation, comprehension, idioms and sentence structure become everyday phrases, whereas your own language is probably absorbed more intuitively. Learning a new language also makes you a better listener as you are used to having to interpret meaning and judge nuances.

8. Improves Performance In Other Academic Areas

As a result of higher cognitive skills, studies show that the benefits of learning a new language include higher scores on standardized exams in math, reading comprehension and vocabulary by multilingual students compared to the scores of monolingual students. Children may ask why they have to learn this language, but parents and teachers know better! Language skills boost your ability to do well in problem-solving tasks across the board, a fact recognized through compulsory foreign language learning curriculum in schools.



9. Increases Networking Skills

Opening up to a culture allows you to be more flexible and appreciative of other people's opinions and actions. As a result, if you are multilingual, you have the advantage of seeing the world from different viewpoints, enhancing your ability to communicate in today's globally connected world.

10. Provides Better Career Choices

According to Eton Institute's Language Development in the Workforce survey (September 2014), 89% of clients stated that multilingual employees add value to the workforce and 88% stated that recruiting team members with language skills is important to their organization. A multilingual ability is definitely a competitive edge in today's world.

Language learning helps develop strong cognitive skills, such as a better concept formation, mental flexibility, multitasking, listening skills and problem-solving, in addition to improving social interaction and encouraging connection between peers.

So, whether you want to train your memory, delay the onset of dementia or simply increase your employability chances, there are many reasons why you too would benefit from learning a foreign language and consider studying one at University.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Arts and Sciences (BASc) Programmes at University College, London

The Arts and Sciences degrees at UCL launched in 2012 and are at the forefront of the new wave of liberal arts and sciences degrees in the UK. They offer a flexible and bespoke alternative for students who may be struggling to decide on a course of study. [Read More](#)



Jump in University Applications for Oxbridge and Medicine in 2021

Compared to last year there has been a 12% increase in students applying to undergraduate courses in the UK with the early application deadline of October 15th.

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Arts and Sciences (BASc) Programmes at University College, London

The Arts and Sciences degrees at UCL launched in 2012 and are at the forefront of the new wave of liberal arts and sciences degrees in the UK. They offer a flexible and bespoke alternative for students who may be struggling to decide on a course of study.

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9 Awesome Careers You Can Get With Any Degree

Regardless of what you study at university, there are many career options available that don't specify a particular degree – here are 9 for starters.

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CAREERS

IBM Futures 12 Month Placement Scheme

The Futures programme from IBM offers students the opportunity to work with a world-leading company for 12 months to broaden their horizons and get a head start in their career.

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Hear From an Apprentice in Digital Marketing

Monet Bailey is working towards becoming fully qualified in digital marketing through an apprenticeship with fitness company The Pulse Group.

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Which Occupations are seeing a Growth in Demand?

Check out the latest labour market information, which may surprise you!

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Machines to 'Do Half of all Work Tasks by 2025'

A World Economic Forum report has forecast that half of all work tasks will be handled by machines in 2025.

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What are languages?

Language degrees are the study of a chosen language in order to improve proficiency and understanding. Most universities will offer a number of different languages including French, Spanish, Italian, German and Russian among others. This list is not exhaustive and most universities will offer degree programs across a number of commonly spoken and less commonly spoken languages.

It is possible to study more than one language as part of a joint honours degree or to study a language alongside another subject altogether. The languages offered will vary across universities, as well as the combinations of joint honours degrees, so it is important to check this with your institution of choice before applying.

What do you learn with a languages degree?

The composition of language degrees will vary between different languages and different institutions. In essence most language degrees will focus on improving fluency and the ability to read, write and speak in another language. Most degrees will also cover the history, politics, literature and film of the country associated with the chosen language. Again this will vary between courses and modules can be selected based on the interests of the individual students.

One of the biggest draws of a language degree is the year abroad. Students will travel to the country where their language of study is spoken natively to immerse themselves in the culture and develop their language skills further.

Students can either work while abroad or continue their studies at a local university; this will usually be dependent on what their university offers. The year abroad is crucial to cultivating a stronger grasp of the language, developing independence and strengthening interpersonal skills, all of which will be attractive to prospective employers.

Due to this most language degrees will span four years in order to accommodate the year abroad. If more than one language is being studied then the year will be split across the different countries that are being studied.

What should I study at senior school if I want to do a languages degree?

Typically, it would be advised that you study the language of your choice up to an advanced level at school to progress to studying a language (or two or three) at degree level. However, it is worth contacting your university of choice for entry options if this is not the case. Some universities will allow students to study a language ab-initio or take beginners modules in a new language. This will be supported through seminars, regular assessments, encouraged independent study and presentations.

Other subjects that could complement a languages degree are other humanities and arts subjects such as English literature or language, history or politics. However, there is no definitive list of subjects that could be studied alongside languages.



What do people who studied languages do after graduation?

Those who study languages are able to move into a number of different sectors due to the transferable skills acquired. One of the more popular careers is teaching, whether this is teaching your chosen language or teaching English as a second language. Another common career path that language graduates will follow is translation and interpretation.

However, these are not the only career options open to those who study languages. Other industries that welcome language graduates are the media, PR, finance, banking, tourism, consulting or working internationally with a charity or as part of a business that trades internationally. The communication skills acquired during a languages degree are highly sought after by many employers and can be applied across many sectors.

Some graduates will also choose to pursue further education to improve their fluency with their chosen language or will choose to study or work abroad.

[Article from Timeshighereducation.com \(2019\)](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/2019/01/21/what-do-people-who-studied-languages-do-after-graduation/)



Working and living in Spain - Understanding the Spanish business culture – Mr Morales-Shearer - Head of Spanish

The Spanish business culture is very peculiar compared to other European countries. Understanding how to do business in Spain is the key to success. From how meetings work, how to negotiate, main business etiquette issues, and everything about structure and management culture.

Business structures

Spanish companies tend to have a rigid and vertical structure in which identifies clear leaders and who their subordinates are is effortless. This is especially true if we are talking about traditional companies or family-owned businesses.

However, today this is changing for the following reasons:

The emergence of many start-ups that adopt new and more dynamic organisational models

The entry of international workers with a different business culture

The fact that many leaders of Spanish companies have studied and been trained abroad, acquiring a much more modern mentality

Long-term objectives

This means that Spaniards are relatively short-term oriented. When any problem arises in the company, they will look for a quick solution, leaving aside the long-term consequences it might have, as long as the chosen path is sufficient now.

This becomes even truer when we incorporate the fact that nationals are very risk-averse. Spanish companies prefer a well-defined organisational structure, with clearly established senior leadership, to find those quick and definitive solutions.

On the other hand, while they seek quick solutions to problems, meeting objectives takes on the opposite demeanour. The usual work style is much more relaxed and slow, taking the deadlines with a certain degree of calm.

How to win a negotiation in Spain

If there is something important to negotiate with a Spanish client, you establish a relationship with him. Personal treatment, liking that person and ice-breaking conversations that have nothing to do with business are fundamental.

How are Spaniards when it comes to negotiating?

We are talking about relational business culture, and if you expect to win the negotiation because you have the best statistics or empirical data, this is not your country.



Real interest in the other person and trust comes first. In Spain, it is very normal to ask about someone's family even if you have never met them before. So, during a negotiation, you can expect to talk about personal or family issues, and that will be completely normal. It is critical for succeeding in your meetings.

How do you build such relationships? Especially with lunch and dinner, but through social gatherings of all kinds. While it is true that phone calls (and to a lesser extent emails) can help, personal face-to-face contact takes precedence overall.

If we refer to negotiations within the company itself, we must reconsider the rigid organisational structure that exists in the vast majority of the cases. This will mean that you will always have to talk to your superior, and never go directly to the one who makes the final decision if he/she is at a higher position. It is worth remembering that skipping the hierarchical levels of the business ladder will not allow you to achieve your goals, so keep that in mind.

Meetings

If you ask a foreigner how he would define meetings in Spain with one word, the most common answer will be chaotic.

To do business in the country, you have to stop understanding a meeting as a group of people with a clear objective in mind (solve X issue) in the shortest time possible.

In Spain, it does not work like that: there is a lot more to a meeting than just solving a problem or communicating a decision.

In Spain, meetings tend not to be 100% formal. It is common to start talking about personal and family issues, and therefore the gathering will last longer.

Besides, interruptions are common, and speaking turns are not always respected. That is entirely normal, and it can even mean that the other person is interested in what you are saying.

The main focus is usually not much brainstorming, but rather the communication by a superior of decisions that have already been made.

Because the perception of time is different, meetings start and end later than usual or than what planned, especially since punctuality is not a general rule.

Working hours

Due to the relaxed sense of time that Spaniards have, the working day starts at 9. However, in many cases (and especially in high business ladder positions) there will be a breakfast with colleagues before, so the day could even start at 10.

After several hours of work, there is a vital lunch break. This lunch break is used by many people to either meet with friends (outside of their working environment), or for meetings.

And while it is true that lunch is one of the most important breaks in the day, they are not the only ones. There is still an essential element in Spanish business culture: the coffee break.

This break usually takes place in the middle of the morning, between 11 and 12. It can be breakfast in a cafeteria or a simple 15-minute pit stop to chat with colleagues. Whichever form it takes, it is a habit that is very much ingrained in any worker.

The working day ends at 6 or 7 p.m., although it is ubiquitous to stay in the office working until after hours from 8 p.m. onwards.

Finally, we are forced to break a great myth. Contrary to what many people tend to think, naps (“siestas”) are for weekends.

Holidays are dependant on Christian traditions, and usually, the month of August is when most people take their annual leave.

Lunch, the central pillar of business

Lunch can be one of the most important parts of the day in the Spanish business environment.

It fulfils different functions, all of them very important.

First of all, it is the option chosen for many meetings with clients. It is common to meet in a good restaurant to discuss a business proposal or an agreement. In Spain, gaining confidence means enjoying a scrumptious meal, in which tasting the dish is as or more important than the customer’s proposal.

On the other hand, it is also a crucial point of contact to strengthen relationships with other workers, hence lunch acquiring a function of socialisation and group integration.

If we take that lunch relevance into account, we now understand why within a typical working day it can take up to 2 full hours.

Greetings

One of the most important pillars of business etiquette is greetings.

Within the Spanish territory, the most common thing is to shake hands, although depending on the level of relationship with the other person, a hug can also be used.

As we have mentioned, commercial relations are usually long term, so it is usual for the “client” to become a “friend”. This would make the greeting much more intimate and close.

The two kisses are reserved only for people you have known for a long time and with whom you have a very close relationship.

In front of a stranger, an older person or to show respect (if, for example, we don’t know the other person’s position or we know that he or she has a superior position), the “usted form” is usually used. However, the most common thing is that you are quickly asked to eliminate formalities when speaking.

Non-verbal communication

The following cultural norms have to do with non-verbal communication, which is very characteristic in the Spanish territory due to the relaxed and friendly demeanour that characterises the nation.

The first thing we must take into account is that eye contact is strong and constant, much more than in other countries (and it is not perceived as threatening).

Proximity is necessary. That is why touching each other, whether on the arm, back, elbow, or shoulder, are common during conversations. In fact, in the case of not having these elements, we could say that the relationship is not prosperous, something that would go against our business objectives.

Besides, the personal space of each individual is relatively reduced compared to the United Kingdom. People are in close proximity to each other, whether they are in larger groups or only having a conversation between two people.

The usual humorous tone, always using irony and easy jokes in conversations, make the most common facial expression the smile, present at almost every moment.

Dressing code and style

The dress code indeed depends on the type of company we are talking about. If we focus on a very prestigious law firm or an international consulting company, we can expect to see everyone wearing a suit.

Traditionally, the Spanish way of dressing at work has always been formal with a conservative touch.

If we compare with other countries in the European Union, we can say that in Spain, people are more conscious of what they wear daily, and they take greater care of their looks. They place a lot of importance to their image and appearance, and looking good in the eyes of others is fundamental.

However, this is changing nowadays, especially with the irruption of many start-ups dominated by young talent where the most common thing is a pair of jeans and a plain short-sleeved t-shirt.

Spain can be too bureaucratic

Finally, the last issue that you must understand to conduct business successfully is everything related to the legal part of the culture. Whether you are going to set up your own business or register as a self-employed person, bear in mind that any legal procedure and bureaucracy issues related to the day-to-day company operations are usually slow and consist of many different steps. Thus, it is easy to get lost or go crazy about it.

Mr Morales-Shearer - Head of Spanish

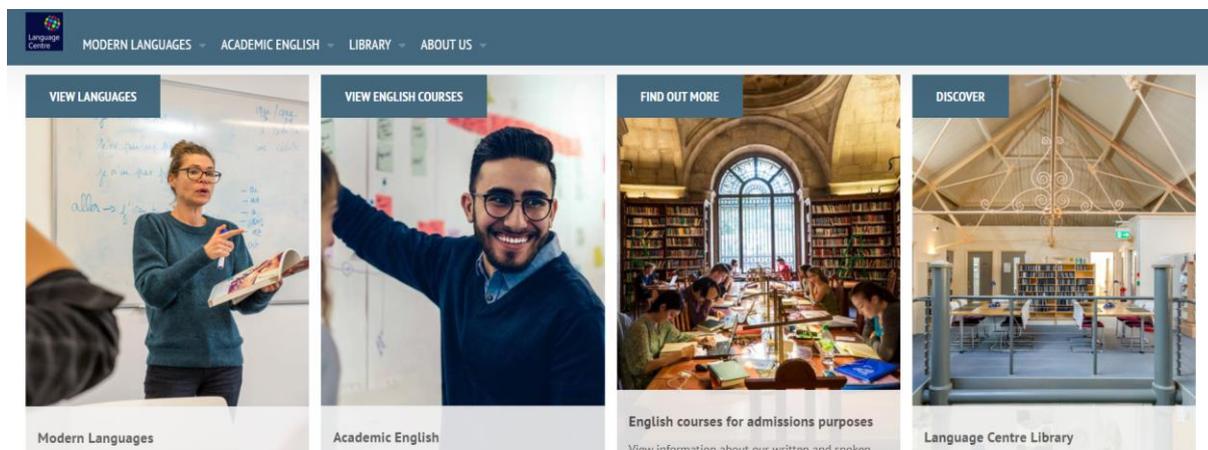
Just languages? Oxford University? – Lisa Battilomo (Old Stoic)

Whenever I answer “French” to the question “what do you study at university?”, I am invariably faced with a puzzled reaction and the exclamation: “just French?!”

The value of reading modern languages at university is often not immediately obvious. Yes, you acquire a deep linguistic knowledge and will inevitably become fluent in one or more languages. However the study of languages, particularly at a university such as Oxford, is far more multidisciplinary than one might think. Literature, philosophy and film studies represent only some of the many areas that you can explore. Beyond this, studying languages at Oxford provides a window into a new way of thinking. We are not limited to learning the language itself, but also the mindset, culture and nuance behind it. A notable benefit of this degree is the year abroad, taking place during the third year, which allows students to experience first-hand the realities of life in the Francophone world, in my case. We are given free rein over how to spend this year, with some pursuing further academic studies in a french-speaking country of their choice, while others, like myself, decide to have their first taste of the world of work.

I spent my year abroad in Paris, interning for a fashion house. As a member of the research team, the set of skills that I acquired at Oxford — such as problem-solving, critical analysis and my ability to communicate articulately — rendered my input all the more valuable. My role involved carrying out cultural and artistic research for upcoming collections, as well as preparing the moodboards and helping out at fashion shows. But what truly made a difference to my contribution at the fashion house was my ability to express myself in more than one language, and it was only when I was speaking with the creative director that I truly appreciated the significance of this skill. She explained that her native language is a fundamental part of her identity, which she would lose should she try to express herself in a foreign language. This perfectly encapsulates the importance of not only understanding a set of words, but also the mentality of one’s interlocutor, when communicating with them in their native language.

In short, perhaps it is fair to say that I am not studying “just” French after all..



The image shows a screenshot of the Language Centre website. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the Language Centre logo and the following menu items: MODERN LANGUAGES, ACADEMIC ENGLISH, LIBRARY, and ABOUT US. Below the navigation bar are four content tiles, each with a title, an image, and a brief description:

- VIEW LANGUAGES**: A woman in a blue sweater pointing at a whiteboard. Below the image is the text "Modern Languages".
- VIEW ENGLISH COURSES**: A man in a blue sweater pointing at a whiteboard. Below the image is the text "Academic English".
- FIND OUT MORE**: A group of people sitting at tables in a library or study area. Below the image is the text "English courses for admissions purposes" and "View information about our written and spoken".
- DISCOVER**: A view of a modern library interior with a high ceiling and wooden beams. Below the image is the text "Language Centre Library".

Language learning and employability in 2020 by EEND - Emilie Danis – Head of French

Only 32% of young people in the UK can read and write in another language, compared with 90% of their peers in Germany, according to a 2020 EU-wide survey. Most UK adults eventually regret losing the language skills they learned in school. In France, all pupils taking “Le Baccalauréat” have to study at least one language, no matter what path they have chosen. Languages are very much at the heart of the French curriculum and have remained a compulsory component for all. Therefore, when I came to England 16 years ago now, I was most surprised and saddened to see that languages were viewed as a lesser path. There is no denying that over recent years we have witnessed a domination by STEM, domination strongly encouraged by choices the government made regarding education. Indeed, language learning always seems to be the first casualty of budget cuts.



Colleges and sixth forms are dropping French and German courses, the National Audit Office (NAO) has warned, as a result. Meanwhile GCSE students studying modern foreign languages for exams in 2021 have been warned that Ofqual is removing the requirement for assessments to use words outside vocabulary lists, and will “permit glossing where necessary whilst maintaining the level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades”. The oral element will be subject to assessment not exam, and be marked pass, merit or distinction, and not contributing to the final grade: as clear a sign as any that actual spoken fluency is not as regarded highly here as we know it to be in other countries.

Nothing could be more short-sighted: we shouldn't value the sciences any more than we value languages. With Brexit looming around the corner, globalisation and pressing issues such as the corona pandemic to contend with, languages specialists in the UK are needed now more than ever.

By learning a language, you will learn more than the grammar and syntax- you will also gain insight into a country's history, culture, literature and politics. The joy of discovering how to read and write words in a tongue that is not your own can never be underestimated. It's code-breaking, but with letters not numbers. Brain training of a type our ancestors knew before computers. A skill that you can spend a lifetime perfecting. And the prize at the end? The chance to communicate with others in a completely new way. Their way, not yours. Learning a language is brave, generous, challenging and always rewarding. I did not end up teaching French because I happened to be a French woman in the UK looking for a job. I have always been drawn to languages and I was 11 when I once told my mum that I would read English at university before settling in England. 10 years later my journey started. I also studied Spanish and German at A Level and although I would not describe myself as fluent in

the latter, I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the intricacies of German grammar. I am a linguist through and through.

Then there's language learning as a skill to enhance the smartest CV. A poll by the National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy found that that languages came second only to IT in a list of desirable skills for job candidates. 43 per cent of recruiters claimed speaking a second language gives a candidate an advantage when applying for a job. As many companies will deal with international customers and clients, they will be more than happy to welcome a bilingual professional onto their team. Plus, learning another tongue will prove to a prospective employer that you are hard-working, have great attention to detail, and are committed to every task or challenge you undertake. Linguists are not just well versed in their subject; they are also great communicators and excellent writers. The obvious career paths for linguists are translating and teaching. Quite often, people do not realise that a language degree can open many more doors they did not even know existed.

If all skills are employed properly, there are a number of new-age career options which ensure reputable and well-paid jobs. Few of them are event organizer, public relations manager, editor, museum curator, FBI agent, translator, advertising manager, foreign correspondent, human resource specialist, linguist, sport journalist. If there is one thing that our future workplace needs, it is 'diversity' - diversity of backgrounds and skills. Other options include working in the diplomatic service or the civil service, maybe in the Foreign Office. Language graduates have got research jobs or development work in the European Union or the United Nations, where knowledge of at least two foreign languages is often required. Graduates will also be favoured in business and legal institutions, and any company that trades or offers services internationally – in sectors as varied as tourism and engineering.

Another appealing, yet little known fact: polyglots earn more. Indeed, the mean salary of language graduates three years after finishing university is ahead of that of graduates of engineering, maths, physics and astronomy, and chemistry, the same research showed. Polyglots earn an extra £3,000 a year - a total of £145,000 over their lifetime, according to a survey of 2,700 employers. The same research reveals that companies are prepared to pay workers earning the national average of £25,818 as much as 12% more for a second language. For higher earners, the numbers are even more startling. Those earning £45,000 could see a potential cash boost of 20%, amounting to an extra £9,000 a year or £423,000 over a lifetime. The most common languages used in UK businesses are French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Cavil if you want at lessons in the old European favourites of French or German, although both are spoken widely around the world - France is the fifth most common language ahead of Arabic - and are in themselves excellent languages to study from a pedagogical perspective. French is an access language for other Romance languages and German a brilliant way to hone grammar.

Is it really worth promoting and prioritizing language learning in the UK? English is after all the most spoken language in the world - with more than 1,130 million native speakers, according to languages website [Ethnologue](#). Of course, it is! At a time when we are charting

our course on a new global future, we need all the skills we can muster. Brexit doesn't make language learning less useful but more so. Over lockdown, Duolingo reported that there was a 300 per cent growth in language learners in the UK in the week after March 23. It was a far greater spike than the 66 per cent seen in the US or Germany, or even the 94 per cent posted in Italy. And what does Duolingo tell us we are choosing to learn? Currently it's Spanish (25 per cent), French (19 per cent) and German (8 per cent). Old habits die hard. This goes to show that with greater appreciation of language-learning, the young generation would not repeat the same mistake as the current workforce. My own passion for languages was triggered not by the idea that I had a professional game plan. It was by a notion that it might be nice to delve into the culture of a country that had fascinated me long before I ever set foot in the UK.

With language learning, the joy is in the journey. The accumulation of words and sentences which open the mind in an ever-widening linguistic experience. There's no end game, no limits. And that's where Global Britain is - on the start of a journey into the unknown. As our students grow into the next generation of entrepreneurs and business people, they will need languages - however humble the grasp. Successful trading is more than balance sheets and deals. It's about winning hearts, minds and ears, too. As Nelson Mandela put it: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart". It is about time the UK rethinks its approach to languages and give the young change-makers a chance to stand out on tomorrow's job market.

Mme Emilie Danis – Head of French

Our Thoughts on Studying French at Stowe - Jacob Ford-Langstaff (Upper 6th Winton) and Mathis Blandin (Upper 6th Winton)

Jacob Ford-Langstaff and Mathis joined Stowe in the Sixth Form last year. They are both in Winton and have been studying French at A Level. Jacob is a dual linguist who is currently applying to read French and Spanish at Cambridge. Although Mathis is French, he has never lived in France as he was born and raised in England his entire life. In this recording, they will be sharing their experience as French learners and will be reflecting on their decision to opt for a language as one of their A Level options. [Click here to listen to the recording.](#)



Studying two languages at A level at Stowe – Ollie De Winton (Upper 6th West)

Languages offer so many benefits to those who choose to study them. A language degree language requires so many 'soft skills' such as communication, the ability to work independently and most importantly dedication as becoming proficient is not always easy; in turn these skills make candidates more appealing to employers. Currently, I study French and Spanish at A-Level and am going to study Modern Languages at University – I am not entirely sure what I would like to do in the future however, this degree helps broaden future opportunities.

Only joining Stowe last year, there was a clear difference in support from my last school. The languages faculty at Stowe is truly dedicated, both to the subject and the teachers to their students, from weekly conversation classes given by the language assistants for A-Level students in order for us to master the techniques needed for the daunting oral exam, to the enthusiasm and support of the teachers. Both the French and Spanish teachers at Stowe evidently have a true passion for their subject, and enjoy seeing us evolve as linguists. Another reason I love languages at Stowe is the Languages Society, this involves fortnightly meetings which range from an International Food and Drink Night to guest speakers and pupil presentations. This is an excellent way for students with the same passion to enjoy learning about languages outside of the classroom.



For any aspiring linguists, although the course can be challenging at times, the satisfaction is deeply rewarding. Whether this be simply watching a foreign film or when you converse with natives in your target language.