

## **MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGES**

# **LANGUAGE LEARNING AND GRADUATE CAREER PROSPECTS: MYTHS AND REALITIES**

**1. EVERYONE SPEAKS ENGLISH:  
THE BRITISH DON'T NEED TO LEARN  
OTHER LANGUAGES**

**2. LANGUAGES ARE TOO DIFFICULT:  
YOU'LL GET BETTER A-LEVEL GRADES IN OTHER  
SUBJECTS**

**3. YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING INTO  
UNIVERSITY IF YOU DO AN EASY SUBJECT**

**4. A DEGREE ISN'T WORTH THE MONEY**

**5. IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO GET A JOB  
WITH A LANGUAGE DEGREE**

**6. YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF A JOB  
IF YOU DO A VOCATIONAL SUBJECT**

**7. THE ONLY JOBS FOR LINGUISTS ARE  
TEACHING AND TRANSLATING**

## **MAKING THE CASE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES**

**MYTH:  
EVERYONE SPEAKS ENGLISH:  
THE BRITISH DON'T NEED TO LEARN OTHER  
LANGUAGES**

**REALITY:**

- **75% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH**
- **OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE AIMING FOR SKILLS IN THREE LANGUAGES**
- **60% + OF BRITISH TRADE IS WITH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES**
- **BUY IN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE  
SELL IN THE CUSTOMER'S LANGUAGE**
- **BRITISH BUSINESS HAS THE POOREST LANGUAGE SKILLS IN EUROPE**
- **BRITISH BUSINESSES LOSE £MILLIONS EVERY YEAR BECAUSE THEY CAN'T SPEAK THEIR CUSTOMERS' LANGUAGES - USUALLY WITHOUT REALISING IT!**

## MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGES

### MYTH:

LANGUAGES ARE TOO DIFFICULT :  
YOU'LL GET BETTER A-LEVEL GRADES  
IN OTHER SUBJECTS

### REALITY(2001)

- MODERN LANGUAGES AS A WHOLE HAD MORE 'A' PLUS 'B' GRADES THAN ANY OTHER SUBJECT EXCEPT CLASSICS
- GERMAN HAD MORE 'A' GRADES THAN ANY OTHER SUBJECT EXCEPT MATHS
- PUPILS HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF A GOOD GRADE IN A MODERN LANGUAGE A-LEVEL THAN IN VIRTUALLY ANY OTHER SUBJECT

## MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGES

### MYTH

YOU HAVE A GREATER CHANCE  
OF GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY  
IF YOU DO AN' EASIER' SUBJECT

### REALITY (2001)

- THE RATIO OF APPLICANTS TO PLACES, ACROSS ALL MODERN LANGUAGES, IS BETTER, FOR THE APPLICANT, THAN IN ANY OTHER SUBJECT AREA
- APPLICANTS HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING INTO A MODERN LANGUAGE DEGREE THAN A DEGREE IN MEDIA STUDIES, BUSINESS STUDIES, PSYCHOLOGY OR LAW

Source: UCAS Annual Statistical Tables 2001 Entry  
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## **MAKING THE CASE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES**

### **MYTH:**

**GETTING A DEGREE  
ISN'T WORTH THE MONEY**

### **REALITY:**

**UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE  
NOT AT UNIVERSITY in 2000  
9.0% (approx)**

**UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG NEW GRADUATES IN  
2000:  
5.5%**

**GRADUATES EARN 61% MORE THAN  
NON-GRADUATES IN THEIR LIFETIME**

**PEOPLE WITH HIGH LEVEL EDUCATION AND  
SKILLS WILL GET THE BEST JOBS IN THE 21ST  
CENTURY**

## MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGES

### MYTH

**IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO GET A  
JOB WITH A LANGUAGE DEGREE**

### REALITY:

**UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG  
NEW GRADUATES IN THE UK  
(2000)**

**ALL UK GRADUATES  
5.5%**

**UK MODERN LANGUAGE GRADUATES  
4.3%**

GREAT JOB PROSPECTS FOR

# LANGUAGE GRADUATES

Year, after year, after year.....

<i>AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AMONG NEW GRADUATES IN THE UK 1996-2001</i>	% OF GRADUATES UNEMPLOYED
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MEDICINE/DENTISTRY/VET SCIENCE	0.44%
EDUCATION	3.31%
LAW	3.76%
<b>FRENCH</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
<b>GERMAN</b>	<b>4.54%</b>
<b>ALL MODERN LANGUAGES</b>	<b>5.34%</b>
ARCHITECTURE/BUILDING/PLANNING	5.44%
MATHEMATICS	6.13%
AGRICULTURE/ FORESTRY	6.56%
ENGLISH	6.57%
BUSINESS/ ADMINISTRATION	6.76%
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	6.81%
PSYCHOLOGY	6.89%
HUMANITIES	6.96%
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	6.96%
SOCIOLOGY/ ECONOMICS/ POLITICS	7.19%
ENGINEERING/ TECHNOLOGY	7.56%
COMPUTING	8.36%

Source of raw data: Higher Education Statistics Agency, 1997-2002  
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# GREAT JOB prospects FOR LANGUAGE GRADUATES

## MYTH:

*THE ONLY JOBS FOR LANGUAGE RADUATES ARE  
TEACHING AND TRANSLATING*

## REALITY:

<b>THE JOBS NEW UK LANGUAGE GRADUATES REALLY DID IN 2001</b>	
BUSINESS SERVICES	26.9%
BANKING / FINANCE	13.1%
WHOLESALE & RETAIL SALES/ MAINTENANCE SERVICES	11.8%
MANUFACTURING	10.1%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	7.9%
COMMUNITY / SOCIAL / PERSONAL / SERVICES	7.7%
EDUCATION	6.5%
	5.7%

TRANSPORT / COMMUNICATIONS	3.8%
HEALTH / SOCIAL WORK	3.7%
HOTELS / RESTAURANTS	0.2%
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	2.5%
OTHER AREAS	

**NB** These figures relate to graduates who entered employment immediately rather than going on to research, further education or training  
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**MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGES  
 WHAT SOME BANGOR LANGUAGE GRADUATES  
 DID ONE YEAR**

*THE JOBS.....*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	MEDICINES CONTROL AGENCY
ENGLISH TEACHER	ECOLE NICOLAS, PARIS
ADMIN TRAINEE	WALES EUROPEAN CENTRE IN BRUSSELS
IMMIGRATION OFFICER	HM IMMIGRATION CONTROL
TRANSLATION PROJECT MANAGER	KUDOS PLC
POLICE OFFICER	ROYAL AIR FORCE
TRAINEE TRUST ADMINISTRATOR	PANNELLFERR FORSTER & CO
RESERVATIONS SALES ADMIN	BRITISH MIDLAND AIRWAYS
EUROPEAN COORDINATOR	TETRA PLC
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSIST.	BUNDESGYMNASIUM DONAUINSEL
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR	UNIVERSITY OF WALES BANGOR
TRAINEE EXECUTIVE	MIDLAND BANK PLC
GRADUATE TRAINEE IN FINANCE	ROLLS ROYCE PLC
TRAINEE ACCOUNTANT	TRANMERE DISTRIBUTION LTD
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	STUDENTS UNION BANGOR
TRAINEE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT	PRICE WATERHOUSE PLC
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	META TECHNOLOGY LTD
BILINGUAL SUBTITLER	ELEN RHYS LTD
SPORTS COACH	SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UNIT BIRMINGHAM

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# WHAT SOME BANGOR LANGUAGE GRADUATE DID ONE YEAR

## *THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES.....*

**CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TEFL)**

**POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN  
EDUCATION (PGCE)**

**DIPLOMA IN EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**

**COMMON PROFESSIONAL EXAM (LAW)**

**LANGUAGE GRADUATES INTO BUSINESS  
COURSE**

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# WHY DO LANGUAGE GRADUATES DO SO WELL?

## THE ANSWER:

- **55% OF GRADUATE JOBS OPEN TO ALL GRADUATES**
  - \* **THESE EMPLOYERS WANT BROAD ABILITIES, NOT JUST SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE**
  - \* **VOCATIONAL TRAINING GIVEN ON THE JOB**
- **LANGUAGE GRADUATES BETTER AT KEY SKILLS DEMANDED BY EMPLOYERS:**
  - \* **ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**
  - \* **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**
- **YEAR ABROAD**
  - \* **MAGIC INGREDIENT IN LANGUAGE DEGREES**
    - **REAL INDEPENDENCE**
    - **EXPERIENCE OF THE WIDER WORLD**
  - \* **PLAYS A PART IN THE FIRST EMPLOYMENT OF OVER 70% OF LANGUAGE GRADUATES**
  - \* **LESS THAN 1% OF GRADUATES IN OTHER SUBJECTS STUDY ABROAD IN THEIR DEGREE**
- **LANGUAGE GRADUATES HAVE AN EDGE AT INTERVIEWS**
  - \* **MORE MATURE**
  - \* **MORE SKILLED IN ORAL PRESENTATION**

# WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THAT LANGUAGE GRADUATES DO SO WELL?

Secondary teachers

FE lecturers

university lecturers

Careers advisers

VIth form tutors

Parents

Employers

Pupils in years 9 10 11 12 and 13

University language students