Where do majors in French Language and Literature and in French and Francophone Studies go?

What jobs do majors in French Language and Literature or in French and Francophone Studies do?

A degree in French Language and Literature or in French and Francophone Studies provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Government**: Translation/Interpretation, Language Analysis, Linguistics, Diplomacy, Civil Service, Foreign Service, Immigration/Naturalization, Customs, Intelligence, Security and Protection, Law Enforcement
- **Industry and Commerce**: Translation/Interpretation, Banking/Finance, Sales, Customer Services, Manufacturing, Logistics and Transportation, Supply Chain Management, Research, Operations Management, Consulting, Human Resources, Law
- **Travel and Tourism**: Translation/Interpretation, Airline Services, Management, Booking and Reservations, Travel Services/Guidance, Ecotourism
- **Service and Education**: Teaching, Tutoring, Educational Administration (Including Study Abroad Programs, International Houses or Cultural Centers, International Student Services), Linguistics, Civil Service, Social Work, Mission Work, Library Science, Health Services, Counseling, Nonprofit or Public Interest Law, Research
- **Arts, Media, Entertainment**: Advertising and Marketing, Journalism/Broadcasting, Photography, Writing, Publishing/Editing, Public Relations, Performing, Film Making, Museums and Auction Houses, Fashion

Use CCE's [Industry Exploration](careereducation.columbia.edu) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.
What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do French Language and Literature and French and Francophone Studies majors bring?

The French Language and Literature and French and Francophone Studies curriculum helps you to develop the following skills:

• Mastery of the language
• Intercultural competence and global awareness
• Research skills and the ability to synthesize learning
• Analytical skills
• Ability to think critically and creatively
• Verbal and written communication skills
• Collaboration and teamwork skills

What if I’m an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.