

## What Can I Do With a Degree In French?

### THE STUDY OF FRENCH

Canada's two official languages, French and English, are an integral part of the cultural make up of the country and the operation of the federal government. The two languages enjoy equal status, rights and privileges in all federal institutions. Both are also internationally significant. French is spoken in countries spread across the globe. The bilingualism and cultural knowledge that students gain from studying this important language give them skills that can enrich both their personal and career lives. Career areas include tourism, international trade, public policy and education.

### WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED WITH YOUR DEGREE?

While the academic knowledge you acquire through your BA may be directly applicable to some careers, the general skills you gain with an Arts degree are the most valuable to employers. These skills are not limited to course work, and may be gained through paid and/or volunteer work both on and off campus. The knowledge and skills gained through work experience, volunteering and extra-curricular activities are relevant to future work.

#### Communication Skills

The ability to communicate ideas clearly and efficiently in a variety of mediums (written, oral, visually and electronically).

Greater social confidence to communicate across cultures, cultural empathy, "fearless" public speaking skills developed through language practice in unfamiliar situations and through classroom presentations and informed debate.

A broadened vocabulary and discriminating word choice, well-developed listening skills.

#### Information Management

Locate, gather, and organize information using appropriate technology and information systems. Use research skills to access, analyze, and apply knowledge.

#### Problem Solving

Use critical thinking skills to evaluate and solve problems.

Demonstrate the ability to be creative and innovative in identifying solutions.

Problem solving skills developed by regular analysis of issues and the intentions behind the words

#### Teamwork Skills

Able to work effectively within a group.

Demonstrates the ability to lead or support the group while monitoring the success of a project and identifying ways to improve it.

#### Personal Management Skills

Able to work effectively and independently under deadlines.

Plan, design, and carry out projects from start to finish, with well-defined objectives and outcomes.

### WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Career Services is your one-stop shop for more information. Through our workshops, one on one career and work search advising, and groups, you'll have access to information, resources and career and peer educators to help you no matter what stage of planning you are in, from exploring your interests to practicing for an interview, we can help.

For the self-directed, our on-line and print self-help resources covering topics from career exploration to researching careers to conducting a targeted work search are easily accessible. Check us out!

Visit the CSI—our blog with articles, job postings, employers and events on campus, and tips from the Career Services staff!

#### SFU CAREER SERVICES

Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby Campus, MBC 0300

Come to the Maggie Benston Centre and go down to the lowest level. You will find us there Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm. Check out our blog for the latest articles, tips and news!

Phone: 778- 782- 3106  
E- mail: [career\\_services@sfu.ca](mailto:career_services@sfu.ca)  
Website: [www.sfu.ca/career.html](http://www.sfu.ca/career.html)  
Blog: [www.sfu.ca/career/csi.html](http://www.sfu.ca/career/csi.html)

# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A FRENCH DEGREE?

What are some of your Career Options?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of career options. Some of them may require further education than a B.A. in French.

**DIRECT Career Options:** Majoring in French will serve as a credential for getting any of the following career choices as the skills required are similar to the skills acquired throughout your French degree.

## EDITOR

Review, evaluate and edit manuscripts in French, articles, news reports and other material for publication, broadcast or interactive media and co-ordinate the activities of writers, journalists and other staff. Employed by publishing firms, magazines, journals, newspapers, radio and television networks and stations.

## FRENCH DEBATE COACH

Instructs and coordinates speech or debate teams in French at various levels of schooling. Must organize and travel with teams to competitions. Trains contestants in various areas such as extemporaneous speaking, poetry reading, debating (both team and one-on-one).

## FRENCH INSTRUCTOR

Prepares French lessons to students of French as a second/foreign language. Teaches French by using a

systematic plan of lectures, discussions, audio-visual presentation, laboratories and field studies. Employed by French Language Schools or for private tutoring.

## IMMIGRATION AGENT

Assists in the regulation of immigration into Canada, including prevention of illegal immigration. May serve as a publicist, assists with translation, or a border patrol officer. May provide special services to refugees.

## TOUR GUIDE

Organizes and conducts tours and itineraries for groups of people. Shows exhibits, makes commentary, gives explanations and answers questions about itineraries.

## LESS DIRECT Career Options:

Knowledge of French may be less pertinent to these positions and the degree alone in French may not serve as a credential for employment.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Works for organizations that support the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage. Coordinates and assists with the planning, promotion and encouragement of programs that further public awareness of, accessibility to, participation in, and support for artistic and cultural development.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE, INFORMATION AND RELATED CLERKS

Includes bilingual clerks who answer enquiries and provide information regarding an establishment's goods, services and policies and who provide customer services such as receiving payments and processing requests for services. Employed by retail establishments, call centers, insurance, and by other establishments throughout the private and public sectors.

## TRAVEL CONSULTANT

Provides travel advice and information to people planning trips. Helps travelers to resolve questions and problems that come up on a trip. Works for travel clubs, state and local tourist bureaus, resorts, travel associations, credit card companies, and tour groups.

## AIRLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Executes business of reservations, telephone and direct ticket sales, passenger ticketing, and boarding. Responds to complaints and requests for information. Works for airline companies.

**INDIRECT Career Options:** On the surface, the following jobs may not appear to have much to do with the study of French. Yet the primary skills required in these jobs are significantly related with some of the skills a French major acquires.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

Plans and conducts outreach presentations (in English and French) to the public on various issues concerning current social concerns. Researches materials and provides visual aids to supplement speech. Works for non-profit organizations or special interest groups.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Assesses the public relations needs of an organization in English and French, plans and implements programs to meet them. Makes public appearances, produces special events, and prepares press releases. Works for businesses of all kinds, non-profit and service organizations.

## HOTEL HOSPITALITY REPRESENTATIVE

Solicits business and programs on behalf of a hotel or conference center, coordinates the catering and support services necessary to accommodate the particular needs of a client or program.