

Translator

Translators convert the written word from the 'source language' into the 'target language', making sure that the meaning is the same.



Skills You'll need:

- the ability to adapt to different styles and cultures.
- a flair for research.
- discretion and respect for confidentiality.
- the ability to remain neutral and free of bias.
- good IT skills, particularly word processing.

What you'll do

You could work on a number of subjects and projects, or specialise in a particular area, like:

- scientific, technical or commercial material
- legal documents
- literary work
- media work
- educational resources
- online content

These are some of the university subjects related to this career:

Chinese and Chinese studies

European studies

French and French studies

Languages, Linguistics and Comparative literature

Modern Middle Eastern studies

Russian and East European studies

Spanish and Spanish studies

Working hours, patterns and environment

You'll work 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

You'll usually be office-based and you may work alone for a lot of the time. You may need to visit clients, experts or specialist organisations, but most contact would be by email, phone or post.

You may work abroad for an international organisation.

You could also work for an agency or as a freelance translator. You'll choose your own hours, and may have to work evenings and weekends.

Career path and progression

With experience you could start your own translation agency, or move into teaching.

You'll usually need:

You'll need to be educated to degree level.

You must be fluent in one or more languages as well as English, and have knowledge of the culture in the relevant country, usually gained by living and working there.

East Midlands growth: +9% from 2014 to 2024, creating 2,767 jobs

East Midlands median earnings: £25,044

You may also be interested in:

Interpreter

EFL teacher

Bilingual secretary

