

Speak More Than One Language? Start a Career as a Translator

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With larger immigrant populations and more global initiatives, the world needs more translators. You can provide these services and find lots of opportunities if you know how to market yourself on social media and write a suitable business plan.



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[According to data from the U.S. Census](#), more than 21% of Americans speak a language other than English at home. This percentage continues to increase over time, revealing an increasingly culturally diverse nation. Many people grow up speaking more than one language fluently. If you are bilingual or trilingual, you may want to consider starting a career in translation services.

Start a translating business with a Business Plan

You can opt to [start your own translation service](#). To increase your chance of success, make a business plan. Write about your company, explain your marketing ideas, decide on a structure, and indicate how you will fund your new startup.

Consider working with communities

A good idea for gaining experience is to get a job with a local city or town as a translator. Communities with immigrant populations may need translators to help residents access services and other necessities. You may want to [get certified as a translator](#) to help boost your chances of getting a job.

Be a Tour Guide

Translators are also needed in the tourism industry. If you live in an area that has popular tourist attractions, you could use your skills to get a job as a [bilingual tour guide](#). Tourist centres and national

sites also need people who speak multiple languages, so that their visitors from around the world can enjoy all of the offerings.

Work for the Government

Many local and national government departments are in need of people who are fluent in multiple languages. The military actively recruits interpreters for missions in other countries and also helps out with defense initiatives. Additionally, [foreign service officers](#) and embassy workers may also need to be bilingual in order to be considered for international opportunities.

Try an Education Career

Education . in many contexts, benefits from [hiring bilingual teachers](#). Check out your local area's requirements to become certified as a foreign language teacher. Bilingual teachers may also [find work as ESL instructors](#).

Prepare your CV

Before applying for a job as a translator or starting your business, make sure you prepare a strong Curriculum Vitae. Include your education, work experience, and skills. Highlight your [language proficiency](#) and detail of credentials you've earned, or wider experiences with foreign languages to make your CV stand out.

Market your services

It's important to get the word out and [market yourself](#) as a translator using social media. Add a shareable PDF file on your business Facebook page of reports, service breakdowns, prices, and other important information. This option is more convenient than having to email each individual customer. Make sure you load your PDF to only your business Facebook profile. Furthermore, [taking a screen capture may be a good alternative to uploading a PDF](#).

Reach out to Contacts

You can try reaching out to contacts from your educational career, previous jobs, or people from your community to find additional translating opportunities. At social events, be sure to bring plenty of business cards so everyone knows you are providing translation services as a business.

Focus on Professional Development

Professional development is also important for translators working in a variety of industries. Languages often change, and new research may also emerge, revealing shifts in how people learn new languages, or comprehend a second language. If you continue to educate yourself about language acquisition and other related topics, you can be ahead of the trends.