

Swami:

Why languages are important in my life:

Early on in my life, I was exposed to language learning and travelling as I moved to the UK from Italy. This chapter in my life gave me no other choice but to learn English as a second language from scratch, at the age of 5, and shaped who I am today.

Being exposed to a new country with a different culture, different norms and values and a completely different language so early on influenced me in a way that is hard to describe. I was no longer only familiar with the Italian way of life, but I quickly adapted to the English one as well, and this sparked a curiosity for other languages and other cultures which I couldn't ignore even if I wanted to. Today, I can say that I am fluent in Italian and English and am approaching that level in French and Spanish too, having put my passion for languages at the forefront of everything I do.

If you were to ask me why I think languages are as fundamental as any other career path, I would tell you that language learning is a fascinating way to become an incredibly open- minded, educated and cultured human being. Language learning doesn't just consist of learning a language, it embeds communication skills and adaptability which employers are eager to be presented with, and you can absolutely pair your languages with different career fields, from politics all the way to fashion. So, if you think knowing foreign languages isn't a valuable skill to have, think again. You might need them on your next adventure...