



Choosing a course after school can be confusing as a simple 'no' or 'yes' can be career-changing. While a plethora of options at hand is convenient, reaching an informed decision could be cumbersome. To help students make a better choice, TOI lends a helping hand with 'Mission Admission'. We conclude the series with **Foreign Languages**

FOR A TONGUE SO INTRIGUING

Conventional Classroom Method Apart, New Ways Of Language Learning are Coming Up These Days

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If you have a love for languages and a flair for picking up complex tongues quickly, it could very well help you carve out a career path.

While the demand for foreign languages has always been there in India, new methods of learning are coming up. Technology has come into the forefront through online video chat sessions on language learning for those who are in urgent need of picking up a foreign tongue or those who have to go abroad.

"There is a change in the way learning is happening. More and more people are getting into teaching now and doing it from home through online interactions. Students too are more open to learning in video chat sessions.

Learning is not just happening in the class but outside also," said Zenobia Irani, founder-director of InAWord centre for languages, Chennai. This could also be an option for those who may not find enough time to attend classes.

But this does not translate into a fall in demand for conventional classroom learning. In fact, centres for language learning could even get a higher inflow of students in the future with the three-language formula set to be introduced in CBSE schools by 2020.

With the formula mandating Indian languages to be picked as the second and third language, foreign languages may well be on their way out for a large number

of schools, unless they offer them as electives. However, whether students will opt for a fourth language along with their academics remains to be seen. In such a scenario, enrolment in private centres could be on the rise, say experts.

The good part about securing a career in this field doesn't require you to have only language degrees. Nivedha V, a translator with Alliance Francaise in Chennai, says even without an UG degree, proficiency in the particular language can help students pursue a postgrad degree which is crucial for jobs. "Students can always enroll in a certificate course and get a good understanding of the language before pursuing a PG degree," she said. A tourism degree at the UG level with a language degree could be a good combination too.

However, experts say a minimum of a B1 level in language certification is required to land good opportunities, especially in MNCs which need translators and interpreters to interact with clients overseas.

With several engineering aspirants pursuing studies in Germany and also continuing to work there, language centres have seen huge demand for German.

While French too continues to see high demand, Spanish also is becoming important now with a lot of trade between India and Latin American countries, said centres.

Meanwhile, Mandarin also has seen a demand for business as well as students who wish to broaden their career opportunities.

SAY WHAT YOU WANT

German, French, Spanish and Mandarin are some of the languages high in demand



Mail your feedback or queries about career options and courses to missionadmission.toichennai@gmail.com



SCOPE AFTER COURSE

- ▶ Translators
- ▶ Interpreters
- ▶ Entry-level roles in embassies
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Tourism and cultural sector positions (tourist guides)
- ▶ Sub-titling, dubbing (if in a translation agency)



ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Eligibility | BA aspirants need to be fluent in at least one language, preferably English
For MA: Need to have a fair understanding of the language being undertaken



WHERE TO GO

Courses vary from certifications for three months to five year master degrees

INSTITUTES	COURSES
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	BA in French, German, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Russian (PG & PhD also available)
Madras University	UG diploma in French, German, Italian, Spanish; MA in French also available
Delhi University	BA in French, German, Italian, Spanish (PG & M Phil also available)
English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad	BA(Hons) in Arabic, French, German, Russian, Spanish; part-time courses in Arabic, French, Italian, Chinese, Persian and Korean
Benaras Hindu University, UP	BA in French, Chinese, Russian
Alliance Française	French
InAWord	French, German, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese
InKo Centre	Korean
Russian Cultural Centre	Russian
Max Mueller Bhavan	German

Salary | ₹20,000/- to ₹45,000/- (approx); MNCs may have higher scale



WHAT'S TAUGHT

▶ Language and communication skills under reading, writing, speaking and listening

FEES | Degree courses range between ₹5,000 to ₹15,000. In certificate courses, students need to have a minimum of B1 level in the chosen language. This is approximately ₹50,000

Proficiency in a particular language is sufficient for students to pursue a postgrad degree. Students can always enroll in a certificate course and get a good understanding of the language before pursuing a PG degree |

Nivedha V, TRANSLATOR WITH ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, CHENNAI

QUICK COUNSEL

TOI replies to readers' queries on career options

● I am studying my B Sc in computer science. I want to learn game designing and development. Can you help me with course options that have low fees | ARUN RAJ

There are several colleges that offer full time courses in game development like The Indian School of Gaming (Hyderabad) and Global Institute of Gaming and Animation (Chennai). If you are looking for an economical option you could consider doing certificate course or a diploma. You can do research online for these options | TEAM TOI

● I wanted to know the scope and job opportunities for BSc Agriculture? | SREELAKSHMI

State department agricultural officer, officer in banking, manager in agro-based industries, agricultural co-operatives, and estates are some options. There are around 33 types of master degree programmes in agriculture related sectors | PROF KRISHNAN, TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE

● I have passed 10th and taken science with computers and want to do engineering but I am confused about what type of engineering I should select so please suggest a good course? | DUSHYANT BETALA

Engineering in Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, IT and Computers have been popular options always with tremendous scope. However, you should choose your stream depending on what kind of engineering you are interested in.

| TEAM TOI

Most important is to go in with an open mind

I literally grew up learning different foreign languages. Studying in Puducherry, French was my first language in school, and later in college, I learned German and Spanish. Later, I continued learning German at Goethe Institut until I completed all levels of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), in it.

I worked in the publishing sector for nine months; a job in which I had to proofread French medical books. I then moved on to working with a multinational e-tail firm where I corresponded with German vendors. In an MNC, however, there was only so much I could do with the language.

So, I decided to take up teaching at InAWORD, where I could learn more about the language than limit it to a certain job profile and requirement. I initially started with teaching the first two levels and moved on to level B2.

EXPERT SPEAK

Ishani Sarkar is a German language teacher at InAWORD, a language institute in Chennai. She also worked as a German language expert in e-publishing and e-commerce

This job gives me the opportunity to constantly be in touch with what I have learnt all these years, and the chance to work with different people with various walks of life - from students to professionals and even old people.

Today, people who know foreign languages get recruited into customer care, vendor management and e-commerce sectors. You could become a translator or an interpreter too, but these areas require specific training along with your command over the language. Knowing the language along with other specialisations opens prospects for various jobs.

German along with a background in engineering can get you placed in

the IT sector, while foreign language experts with economics and accounting backgrounds are in great demand in banking, automobile sector etc. MNCs, however, remain the most commercially viable sector with salaries starting from over Rs4-lakh per annum.

The most important thing while learning a new language is to go in with an open mind. When you learn a new language, you're not just learning its grammar and communication, but also the ways of its people, their culture and how they think.

Learning a foreign language broadens your own mind in ways that are unique and instrumental in your own progress.

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