

Language Ambassadors

Profile



LAURA DEAVES

Occupation: Global Project Coordinator

Company: International Baccalaureate

Degree/University: BA French Studies, Swansea University, MA International Relations, Cardiff University

Languages spoken (native and learned): English (native) French (fluent), Spanish (beginner)

Not only is learning a second language extremely useful in terms of opening more careers prospects, it is also highly enjoyable. It really is something that stays with you.

I have found having a language degree has been especially useful in furthering my career prospects and the opportunities available to me. My language skills definitely gave me the edge when applying for my current role within the International Baccalaureate. The three official languages of the organisation are English, French and Spanish so a working knowledge of these languages will help me to progress further within my job. Frequent international travel is required as a part of my job and my employer knows that I am culturally aware and happy to travel and experience other cultures. I have been given the opportunity to frequently travel to Geneva and help with the project management side of one of our projects due to my knowledge of the French language. In addition I have travelled to Singapore and The Hague extensively.

I recently graduated from Cardiff University with a master's degree in International Relations which, together with my language skills, will enable me to confidently enter

the market place in a strong position to gain employment in the field that I want to work. With French being one of the official languages of many international institutions, such as the United Nations, my degree will definitely give me an advantage in pursuing my goal of having a career in international development. Whilst studying towards my master's, I was selected to visit the European Parliament in Brussels and meet other international master's students. Having a second European language undeniably helped me during this visit.

In addition, I believe that learning a foreign language at university helped me to improve my confidence, communication and analytical skills immensely due to the focus on written and oral work. These included group presentations, debates, essay writing, and translation. Effective communication skills are considered extremely important in a wide range of careers, especially in today's competitive job market.

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