



Salut! I'm Alastair Campbell. I've worked in journalism and politics. I was Tony Blair's spokesman when he was Prime Minister.



What did you study?

Modern and Mediaeval Languages (French and German) at the University of Cambridge.



What are the best aspects about your career?

There are threads that hold the various parts together and a love of language has been one of them.

What languages do you speak and are there any others you would like to learn?

I speak fluent French. I was nearly fluent in German in my 20s but because I have used my French much more I regret to say I now struggle a bit with my German. I would also like to learn Chinese, Arabic and Spanish.

How much have you used your languages in your career?

In politics a fair bit because we had so many dealings with France. In journalism it always helps to be able to speak languages. And in my writing I have been able to promote my books in France which helps.



When/where did you learn these languages?

I first learned at school, then university and that included a year abroad in Nice. It was one of the best years of my life and that is where my French really took off.

How has this affected your career choice?

I think it definitely fuelled an interest in the power of words and the use of language to communicate and campaign. So that has taken me to journalism, politics and writing. So definitely a help in all three.

Best thing about learning another language?

Being able to understand everything around you.

One piece of advice...

Listen to the radio in a foreign language!

