

Language Ambassadors

Profile



ALISTAIR MURRAY

Field of employment: Sales, Translation, Marketing

Company: Gripple Ltd, Sheffield, Commercial Sales Support

Degree/University: French with Spanish, Nottingham Trent University

Languages spoken (native and learned):

English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Japanese, Irish Gaelic and currently learning Polish and Greek in spare time.

“Learning one, two or even ten languages puts you very much ahead of other people in your organisation. If you enjoy travelling, meeting new people and seeing new things, then languages are crucial! They aren’t just an accessory for holidays abroad, they are truly a must have in any international company. Through possessing these important skills, you can open many doors around the world. You never know what may be in store!”

“I have always been interested in what goes on beyond our shores and it has always been my dream to be able to communicate freely with anyone I meet. When I was at school some ten years ago, I was aware that there were only a couple of students in my year group who took learning languages seriously. I came away every night wanting to step away from the stereotype of people in my area who say: ‘I speak two languages, English and Yorkshire’. I was already trilingual by ten and by 20 I knew seven Languages! Now I am aiming for ten and who knows what the future may hold!

“Currently as a linguist, I hold significant advantage over other candidates for potential jobs both in the UK and abroad. When I graduated in 2009 at the height of the recession, amid record unemployment, I still had to choose between two job offers. Being able to speak other languages puts you way ahead of the competition and having knowledge of the society, geography and mentality of the countries you deal with makes it much easier to integrate yourself.

“In my current role I cover France, Spain and Italy and provide marketing and sales support as well as translation services. I must travel abroad frequently in order to meet and work with the customers in the three target countries, and trips to Latin America may be in the pipeline in the future. Did I forget to say that I cover all things vineyard and have to make time in the day to sample my clients’ wine on a weekly basis?”

Web: www.gripple.com

Email: ambassadors@soton.ac.uk

Language Ambassadors

Profile



ANNA

Occupation: Translations Project Manager

Company: TippingSprung LLC

Degree: BA Joint Hons Linguistics with German, NTU;
MA Linguistics, Bergen University, Norway

Languages spoken (native and learned): Polish (native);
Learned: English, German, Norwegian

“The best way to learn foreign languages is to have contact with native speakers, if possible travel to the particular country and stay there for some time to practice the language, and watch foreign TV/read books/watch movies!”

Why did you decide to study languages?

“I always thought it was interesting to speak a foreign language – especially to be in a position to understand foreigners when they talked while standing next to you. I also started to work as a translator pretty early and was really fascinated with the field.”

How has knowing another language had a significant role in your life and/or work?

“Knowing foreign languages helped me to gain international experience – I could travel to a different country, study there, and easily get a job. It also helped me develop my mind – I could read books in the original language, which sometimes varies from the “translated” version.”

What advantages does being a linguist currently afford you?

“I could get an interesting job, working as a Project Manager in such interesting field like advertising – working with big campaigns is extremely exciting – besides, you can find out about new products before the rest of the world because you are one of the first ones to see an ad!”

What does your current role involve?

“As a translations project manager I handle translation projects from the moment we receive them in English (most of the time) to the finished product translated into different languages of the world. I deal with foreign translators, copywriters, and advertising agencies. I also use my language skills to proofread the ads once they are translated.”

Web: <http://tippingsprung.com/translation/>
Email: ambassadors@soton.ac.uk