



# INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

## Foreign Language Opportunities

### Foreign Languages: Your Skills Are Critical

**If you want to understand what's on the mind of our foreign adversaries, you must first understand their languages.**

The 18 members of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) collect, analyze and share data from a wide range of sources spanning every corner of the globe. With more than 7,000 languages and variants spoken around the world, the IC has a critical need for foreign language, regional, and cultural expertise that will help us thwart adversarial plans and keep America safe and secure.

Language professionals have opportunities in the Intelligence Community that are rarely matched in the private sector. In addition to competitive salaries and benefits, many IC elements offer additional incentive pay for tested language skills. From translation and interpreting to building cutting edge human language technology, there is a wide range of positions where foreign language skills are critical.

#### Explore Foreign Language Opportunities and Positions with the U.S. Government

- [Intel.gov](http://Intel.gov) (overview of career opportunities)
- [DNI.gov](http://DNI.gov) (career link with job descriptions/postings)
- [Intelligencecareers.gov](http://Intelligencecareers.gov) (NSA, NGA, DNI, DIA, DHS, NRO job postings; internships for high school, college and graduate students)
- National Security Education Program [[NSEP.gov](http://NSEP.gov)] (scholarships, grants and fellowship opportunities that support the national need for experts in critical languages and regions)
- Intelligence Community websites to pursue language careers (example, [CIA.gov/careers](http://CIA.gov/careers))

#### Who We Seek

The IC looks for candidates who have a passion for languages and seeks a wide range of foreign language expertise with a wide variety of college degree focus. The most critical language expertise the IC seeks are those who have a deep expertise in Russian, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Arabic and Spanish. Other languages desired by the Intelligence Community are based on proficiency levels and mission needs.

#### Requirements

It does not matter whether your knowledge of a foreign language is native or learned in a classroom. The IC is open to all but is looking for individuals with Level 3 or higher language proficiency based on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale. [The ILR scale of 0-5 is the standard grading scale for language proficiency ([GovtLR.org](http://GovtLR.org)).] Please note that in addition to language proficiency, you will need to be a U.S. citizen and be eligible for a security clearance.

To apply for careers in the Intelligence Community visit  
[Intel.gov](http://Intel.gov), [DNI.gov](http://DNI.gov), [Intelligencecareers.gov](http://Intelligencecareers.gov)