

THOUGHTFUL TRANSLATION IS OUR FOUNDATION

FOREIGN LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITIES AT CIA





MULTILINGUAL TEAMS ARE MISSION CRITICAL

At CIA, information is everything. Being able to understand information from global communities is imperative to leveraging our intel and impacting issues of national importance. It's why we prioritize hiring officers with backgrounds in foreign languages. In today's world, anyone with internet access can obtain basic translations, but understanding the nuances of conversation, dialects, and cultural implications cannot be readily replicated by technology. This is why we turn to language-capable professionals like you.

From providing real-time translation of fast-breaking events and identifying patterns in foreign-based social media chatter to supporting covert operations and teaching fellow officers, language skills make a daily impact at CIA. There's no better place to make a difference while growing a meaningful career.

Is another language your native tongue or second nature?

Bring your unique abilities to our mission.

FLUENT? CONVERSATIONAL? RUDIMENTARY?

See how your language skills stack up.

CIA uses the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR), Levels 0 to 5, to determine language proficiency in reading, speaking, and listening.

Proficiency Level 1: The Survivor

Able to talk about oneself and narrate simply.

Proficiency Level 2: The Storyteller

Able to report facts and narrate in past, present, and future tenses.

Proficiency Level 3: The Analyst

Able to give advice, clarify points, and express and support an opinion.

Proficiency Levels 4-5: The Thinker

Able to persuade, negotiate, advocate, hypothesize, and discuss highly abstract, philosophical topics.

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My parents taught me their native language, Arabic, when I was a child. I didn't think there was anything extraordinary about the ability. While in college, I discovered I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself—and I realized being bilingual could aid both my country and my career.

— Noora, Support Integration Officer



FOREIGN INTERPRETATION. NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

Having deep cultural insights and language capabilities is key to keeping our Nation safe. Therefore, it should come as no surprise just how many countries and languages are represented across our teams tasked to resolve some of the toughest challenges imaginable.

Relevant languages include:

- Afrikaans
- Albanian
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Armenian
- Azerbaijani
- Baluchi
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Burmese
- Cebuano
- Chechen
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dari
- Dutch
- Estonian
- Ewe
- Finnish
- Flemish
- French
- Georgian
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Haitian Creole
- Hausa
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Igbo
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Javanese
- Kazakh
- Khmer
- Kirghiz
- Kissi
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Lao
- Latvian
- Lingala
- Lithuanian
- Macedonian
- Malay
- Malayalam
- Mandarin
- Marathi
- Mongolian
- Nepali
- Norwegian
- Panjabi
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian
- Sindhi
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tagalog
- Tajik
- Tamil
- Tausug
- Telugu
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Tigrinya
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Uighur
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese
- Yoruba
- Zulu

Visit our website for current details on Foreign Language requirements:
cia.gov/careers/language-opportunities

A CULTURE TO GROW YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

We encourage all officers to explore new languages or expand on ones they're already familiar with.



Available roles

Foreign language skills are critical across the CIA. Here are a few of the roles where those skills can be applied.

- Case Officer
- Collection Management Officer
- Cyber Threat Analyst
- Economic Analyst
- Foreign Language Instructor
- Language Officer
- Leadership Analyst
- Military Analyst
- Open Source Collection Specialist
- Open Source Exploitation Officer
- Open Source Targeter
- Political Analyst
- Staff Operations Officer
- Targeting Officer

Fully Equipped Language Center

Our state-of-the-art language training and testing facilities provide engaging learning environments for officers to master the subtleties of foreign language and culture through the latest technology and instructional techniques. Experienced educators, interactive learning materials, and highly customized consultations are available for the enhancement and maintenance of language proficiency.

Philosophy

The CIA prioritizes language for a career and provides Agency officers incentives to acquire, sustain, and improve their foreign language skills for missions. Please visit our website for the most current information on the incentive programs.

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I taught Russian for 20 years at the college level. But I needed a new challenge—something outside of academia. I wanted to feel as though I was part of a team and make a measurable impact.

— Viktor, Language Instructor

READY FOR NEXT STEPS?

Requirements

- Be a U.S. citizen (including dual or naturalized)
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be willing to relocate to the Washington, DC area
- Be able to complete security and medical evaluations
- Be registered with Selective Service, if applicable
- Possess the necessary skills or experience

Essential qualities successful candidates should have*

- Sound judgement and decision-making
- Ability to navigate complex situations with integrity
- A growth-mindset with the desire to learn and adapt
- Candid communications and transparency
- Demonstrated judicious and lawful behaviors
- Abstinence from recreational and illegal drug use

*Not an exhaustive list. Evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Submission guidelines

- Submit your interest to work at CIA at cia.gov/careers.
- Reconsider your affiliation with CIA social media accounts, including “following” the Agency’s online accounts or sharing content or commentary. It may impact your career with us.
- If you have been contacted by the Agency and decide to travel outside the U.S., please notify your processor. Overseas travel could delay processing.

Learn more about our opportunities and how your work can help keep our Nation safe at cia.gov/careers



Please be mindful of who you share your interest in working at CIA with—it may impact your future with us and your safety. Let this be a reminder that work with us is more than just a job. Here, everything you do matters.

