

## **LANGUAGE STUDIES**

The world we live in is full of diversity. There are hundreds of languages spoken around the globe and their speakers are in thousands. With the rapid globalization we witnessed in the last several decades, the world saw a rising need to people who, through their knowledge of different languages, can connect people from different places.

This rising need paved way for the emergence of many career options in languages. With a degree in foreign languages, the world of communication opens up. In addition to being able to travel to other countries and speak with their inhabitants, graduates can use their linguistic skills to find rewarding employment in fields such as foreign language teaching, interpreting or consulting.

Knowing a language can provide many advantages for business, travel and personal satisfaction. Not only is learning a language exciting, it also gives students a greater appreciation of the history and culture surrounding that language, and, by extension, of all cultures including their own. Courses in languages degree programs can include, but are not limited to:

- Applied Phonetics
- Civilization and Cultural History
- Conversation and Composition
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Reading Skills

In India, the language which is popular among students is English. The English language is offered as:

- B. A. Hons in English
- B. A. Hons in English Literature
- B. A. Hons in English Language and Literature
- B. A. in English
- B. A. in English Literature
- B. A. in English Language and Literature

The duration of these courses varies from college to college and is generally consists of 3 to 4 years. Admissions to most of the colleges are based on merit / marks obtained in the qualifying examinations.

**Under this course, students learn about various topics like:**

- Classical Literature
- Forms of Popular Fiction
- Twentieth Century Indian Writing
- Anglo American Writing from 1930
- Modern European Drama
- Women's Writing Of 19th and 20th century
- Contemporary Literature
- Literary Theory
- History of English Literature
- Applied Grammar

**Top colleges offering courses in**

**Languages: Delhi University:**

Also referred to as DU is the most famous of all universities for the simple fact that it has produced more number of well-known alumni from its Department Of English. The QS World University Rankings has named it one of the top 100 universities in the world to study English. Known for its high standards in teaching and research and the attraction it poses for scholars, the Delhi University offers courses in arts, management, social sciences, fine arts, commerce, sciences and law. Some Of the renowned and most sought after colleges for Linguistics program, B. A. English, are:

- St Stephen's College
- Lady Sri Ram College
- Hindu College
- Hansraj College
- Miranda House

- Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
- Kamala Nehru
- Gargi College and many more

### **Admission:**

Admissions to all of these colleges under DU are based on merit. The best scorers of four subjects where English is a mandatory subject, stand a chance to secure admission in them. Admissions are very competitive and the cut offs for these colleges are as high as 97.75%.

### **The Presidency University, Kolkata:**

The Presidency University, Kolkata, is a premier institution of excellence, especially in Arts and Literature and is known for its highly reputed English courses.

The most well-known course for English in the Presidency University is the Bachelor of Arts English course. The admissions are based on an online admission test and the eligibility to appear for this test differs in different subjects. For example a student must score 65% in English to be able to apply and 70% in Math. Each year the university releases its eligibility score for various subjects. It is important for the counselors to keep a track of that while you advise a student.

### **St Xavier's College, Mumbai:**

St Xavier's College, Mumbai is also a highly reputed college in India. It is also one of the oldest Universities in the country. It was awarded the highest rating, A+ (5-Star) by NAAC. Being an autonomous college, St. Xavier's designs its own courses, framing its own syllabi and conducting its own evaluation for its students. With a cutoff of 85%, the university's B. A. course is sought by a huge number of students and admission can be secured only on the basis of the overall percentage of marks in the qualifying examination.

### **Madras Christian College:**

The Madras Christian College (MCC) is in Madras (Chennai), India. Founded in 1837, MCC is one of Asia's oldest colleges. Here too, the cutoff rates are not shorter than 85%.

## **Stella Maris College, Chennai:**

Stella Maris College is a Catholic institution of higher education for women in Chennai, India. It is an autonomous college affiliated to the University Of Madras and is partly residential. The college, which is under the direction of the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, is a minority institution that provides university education in a Christian atmosphere for deserving students.

### **Entry Requirements**

To be eligible to apply for various colleges for a course in English, students can be studying any subject or stream in their classes 11 and 12, i.e. they can be from Commerce / Medical / Non - Medical streams. However, they should be studying English as one of their subjects.

Admissions to this course is on the basis of merit. Students should secure at least a minimum of 85% and above to get into the top colleges.

### **Some of the other top colleges include:**

- Presidency College (Chennai)
- Ramnarain Ruia College (Mumbai)
- Sophia College for Women (Mumbai)
- Bethune College (Kolkata)
- Fergusson College (Pune)

### **Fees**

Most of the colleges mentioned above will have the course fee range of 10000 INR per year to 25000 INR per year. Some of the other private universities will charge higher than this depending upon the amenities that they provide to the student.

### **Higher Education Options:**

After graduation, students can do a Master's in English. They can opt for post- graduation in foreign languages like Spanish or French. Some people opt for a

B. Ed. and get into the teaching profession. Journalism and Mass communication are other options. A library management course is also a favorite among B. A. English graduates.

Some English graduates choose to continue their academic studies by doing an M. A. or a Ph. D., while others choose to study more vocational postgraduate courses in areas such as teaching, journalism, librarianship or law. Such courses allow students to study in the areas they wish to enter as a career.

**Jobs directly related to the degree include:**

- Editorial Assistant
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- Lexicographer
- Magazine Journalist
- Newspaper Journalist
- Primary School Teacher
- Secondary School Teacher
- Writer

**Jobs where the degree would be useful include:**

- Academic Librarian
- Advertising Account Executive
- Advertising Copywriter
- Arts Administrator
- Information Officer
- Marketing Executive
- Public Relations Officer
- Records Manager

**Job Prospects:**

The skills gained by English and Comparative Literature majors are more practically valuable than you may think. They can be adapted for most industries. Skills such as written and oral communication, editing, problem solving, critical thinking, and analysis are highly prized by employers in nearly every profession.

In today's evolving career landscape, the widely applicable skills developed while engaged in studying, analyzing, and writing about literature are in more demand in the workplace than ever before. Employers in all career pathways consistently cite writing, communication skills, the ability to work independently, and adaptability at the top of their lists of desired skills.

As students of English and Comparative Literature they will develop these skills in abundance. An English language graduate, as a beginner, can seek employment in mass communication firms, research institutes, government agencies, entertainment and in public relation. They can work as a tourist guides in travel agencies or can be self-employed. English graduates or post graduates candidates can work as a teacher in colleges, schools and in universities. They can also offer training in English Language by opening their own coaching institute or tutorial center.

Direct career paths that can be followed are: Lexicographer, Speech and Language Therapist, Languages Teacher, Copy Editor, Proofreader or a role in communications.

Careers in this field involve more reading, writing, communication and research than other careers. Students of English literature have various job opportunities lined up for them. Some of the popular industries are:

- Publishing
- Research
- Scriptwriting
- Advertising;
- Authoring Jobs in KPO Firms
- Teaching
- Translation
- Content Writing
- Advertising, Marketing and PR Careers

Another major opportunity is found in Information technology wherein the Linguistics graduates would be shouldering the responsibilities of Natural Language Processing, Speech

Recognition, and Speech Synthesis.

Other career paths may include, but are not limited to, the Civil Service, Marketing, Journalism, and Law. Further study can also be undertaken to help prepare for more specialized roles or to enhance linguistics knowledge. For students who pursue an undergraduate course in a language other than English, Translating and Teaching tend to be the most popular career choices due to the increased demand for Translators, Teachers and Consultants in other countries as well embassies.

A large percentage of companies now have offices in foreign locations and clients and commercial interests that require a sound knowledge of languages other than English. Hence, these companies often tend to hire foreign language speakers, and also consider fluent speakers favorably even for roles without a specific language requirement!

Another added advantage of pursuing a modern language degree is an understanding of the different cultures along with impeccable language skills. Apart from Translating and Teaching, following are some of the career paths that Foreign Language graduates can consider:

**1. Account Management:** A major requirement for account management is the ability to efficiently communicate and be organized, identify clients' needs and ensure everything is delivered in an accurate manner. These are some of the skills that are inculcated as a part of the undergraduate course. In addition to this, the fluency in the foreign language would be adding the required profile desirability for any company dealing with foreign clients. The ability to communicate productively across a spectrum of clients is one of the reasons why multinational companies look for foreign language skills when recruiting account managers.

**2. Finance:** The world of finance is slowly but surely opening its doors for a diverse range of graduates. While the traditional talent pool of Mathematics, Economics, and Sciences is definitely a strong prerequisite, more and more banks and financial institutions, which work multi nationally, are looking for candidates who can effectively communicate and liaise with the offices around the world. Foreign language is seen to be "highly desirable" in most job descriptions! For example, Goldman Sachs claims to actively look for language

graduates or native speakers for around 50% of the roles! And companies like HSBC and Credit Suisse suggest that the applicant having a second or even a third language would prove to be a huge advantage in the application process!

**3. Social Media:** Marketing is a sector in which a foreign language degree can be useful. Social media, in specific, can open an array of opportunities for these graduates. This is so due to the fact that most companies, who have operations in different companies, usually have an array of social media profiles.

The knowledge of a foreign culture as well as fluency in the said language would make the profile more preferable. Also, having effective and a broad range of language skills would also be of help in moving across jobs within marketing.

### **KEY TAKEAWAY**

- Due to globalization and the rapid rise in the usage of technology, the need for people who know different languages has substantially increased.
- Courses in languages include the studies Of Applied Phonetics, Civilization and Cultural History, Conversation and Composition, Linguistics, Literature, Reading Skills.
- English is the most preferred language, these are the courses offered in it: BA Hons in English, BA Hons in English Literature, BA Hons in English Language and Literature, BA in English, BA in English Literature and BA in English Language and Literature.
- After studying language, one can become an Editorial assistant, a foreign language teacher, a Lexicographer, a Magazine journalist, Newspaper journalist, Primary school teacher, Secondary school teacher and can also become writers.
- Some of the top universities which offer courses in journalism are The Delhi University, the Presidency University, Kolkata, St Xavier's College, Mumbai and the Madras Christian College.