

Many students majoring or minoring in foreign language don't know all career options available to them. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook estimates that "...employment of interpreters and translators is projected to increase 24 percent over the 2006-16 decade, much faster than the average for all occupations." Indeed, Translation and Interpreting is a booming field in both industry and academia. It is a competitive field, and the ability to speak more than one language alone does not necessarily make one a successful professional translator. Translators must have deep cultural understanding and reading comprehension of the source language (one's second or third-language culture) and impeccable cultural understanding and writing skills in the target language (one's first language). An undergraduate degree is not enough preparation for a budding translator.

UWM's Online Graduate Program in Translation is among the few places that offer translator-training in the United States. UWM's program offers translation study in French to English; German to English; English to Spanish, and Spanish to English. Two additional areas of study, Japanese to English and Arabic to English, begin in Fall 2012, and plans are underway to add Russian to English in Fall 2013. Ours is the only program to offer so many languages in the fully online format. Our students complete 30 credits for the Masters of Arts, including a required internship. Internship placements offer students a valuable opportunity to gain work experience as translators – and sometimes as interpreters – before they hit the job market.

The Graduate Program in Translation has a concrete, positive impact locally, regionally (and beyond) through internship placements and through its translation/interpreting service, UWM Language Service. Select details about both programs are provided below.

Internship Placements

The Graduate Program in Translation includes an internship program that enables students in the MA program to gain field experience by working as translators, interpreters, and project managers for local, regional, national, and international businesses and non-profit organizations. Interns are particularly important for non-profit organizations unable to hire professional translators and interpreters. Here is a list of recent internship placements.

Milwaukee Art Museum	Local
Kiva.org (micro-lending organization)	Remote
Aurora Health Care	Remote
Allegro Language Services	Madison
Discovery World Museum, TOPS Club	Remote
Safe Harbor	Sheboygan
Max Kade Institute	Madison
Connecting Cultures (Health Care Interp)	Green Bay
Marquette Legal Clinic & MATC	Local
SWITS (Interpreting)	Local
The Goethe-Institut	Washington DC
The Localization Institute & Allegro	Madison
Columbia-St. Mary's	Local

United Way of Greater Milwaukee	Local
St. Francis Children's Center	Local
St. Francis Hospital	Local
HyCite Corporation	Local
Iverson Language Associates	Local
Concordia University	Local
Casa Xelajú (School in Guatemala)	International
Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	Local
Embassy of Chile in Washington DC	Washington DC
Law firm (Guttormsen, et al)	Kenosha
International Communication by Design (ICD)	Local
Point-to-Point Translation & Language Consult.	Local
UW-Extension (Racine)	Local
Fotosearch Stock Photography	Local
UWM Dept of Chemistry (Dr. Petering)	Local
Wheaton Franciscan Health Care	Local
<i>The Hispanic Chronicle</i> (Racine/Kenosha)	Local
UN Armenian Office	International
Milwaukee County Zoo	Local
UWM film project – Folklore	Local

UWM Language Services

UWM Language Services was created in 2004 as a not-for-profit service connecting clients who need translation and interpreting services with students in the MA program in Translation. The work of student translators is reviewed and edited by a faculty member, so clients are assured of high quality services.

The program provides services at rates consistent with those beginners in the translation market offer. Students benefit from the program by gaining valuable work experience that enhances their professional skills and employment outlook.

Services offered

Translation & interpreting services are regularly offered in French to English, German to English, Spanish to English, and English to Spanish. Services in other languages are also offered, depending on the availability of students and faculty in other language pairs (most often Russian & Portuguese).

In addition, the program began offering notary services for translation of official documents (birth certificates, visa documentation, etc.) in 2009-2010.

Clients & projects

Requests for service come primarily from UWM researchers and students, local businesses & non-profits, and members of the community. Requests from institutions and individuals outside the state are increasing.