

Just the multilingual job for students at Barnet College



Multilingualvacancies.com is a job board, a website where multilingual jobseekers and employers looking for languages can meet. Jobs that they advertise come from a range of industries both in the UK and overseas – from call centre to games testing and accounting. Over 90,000 registered candidates can be contacted directly by their clients.

As you might then expect, Multilingualvacancies.com's team of experienced staff have a passion for languages. Most speak a second European language and have spent time living abroad. The desire to share that passion with students in London led them to getting involved in the Business Language Champions programme, and to form a partnership with Barnet College. Barnet's A Level students were equally keen to find out how languages can be used in the workplace: who better to get career advice from than a team specialising in multilingual recruitment?

Students explored multilingual job opportunities online

Having put together a programme with Stéphane Arnaud at Barnet College and her colleague at Multilingualvacancies.com Claire Tritton, Felicity Cooper arrived at the college in March 2009 to present to around 20 French and Spanish A Level students. She introduced herself, explaining as a recent graduate of French at Glasgow University how she had developed her language skills and got into her line of work. Language Ambassadors Chara Charalampidou (a Greek, Spanish and Italian speaker) and Fayruz Mohamud (an Arabic and French speaker), whose role was to facilitate on the day, also talked about their own backgrounds.

After Felicity had described a job board and how their business operates, students worked with the support of Language Ambassadors and teaching staff to explore job opportunities on the Multilingualvacancies.com website – and find out for themselves exactly the skills they would need for their career, not only in terms of languages. Felicity then went on to outline which businesses were recruiting, and which languages they looked for. The fact that well known brands like Abercrombie & Fitch and Sega recruited specifically



for language skills made a strong impression, and occupation examples such as games tester and retail trainee manager certainly appealed to the students.

The event proved ideal for a group of young people who could soon be joining the job market. Not only did they learn how to match job opportunities to their skills and interest, they found out about the wide range of career options with languages. Early feedback from the college suggests that the event has given students the motivation they



needed to continue studying one or more foreign languages. Diane, an AS French student, commented, "It was great to hear all about the recent experiences of Felicity, Chara and Fayruz. I now see how important some less popular languages are, and I'm thinking of taking up Dutch." Another AS French student, France-Gall, is still regularly checking the job board to see the breadth of opportunities with languages – far beyond the translation and teaching jobs she expected to be applying for, and with better salaries than she expected too.

Opportunity to promote the importance of languages

Felicity, not long out of university, proved a perfect role model and she certainly enjoyed the opportunity to give those attending the benefit of her own recent experience: "As a student you don't feel it's worth the extra effort to pick up something of another language for your career – I only realised this once I started work. Working with Barnet College presented a great opportunity to promote the importance of learning languages to students, so they can succeed in what is becoming an increasingly competitive job market."

Multilingualvacancies.com continues to communicate with students through posters sent directly to universities and the Careers Fair at the Language Show at Olympia in London, which it is sponsoring during October and November 2009.

Find out more

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