

Celebrity Linguists

It is surprising how many Welsh celebrities speak another language and many of them believe this skill has helped them with their careers.

Stephen Jones is a rugby player for the Scarlets and Wales. He formerly played for Clermont-Auvergne in France where his language skills really helped him. *“Carry on with your foreign languages! Even though I improved whilst I was in France, I do wish that I had taken my French lessons more seriously in school. I made so many friends in France, but it would have been a lot easier if I’d learnt French when I was younger”*

Other celebrities who are proud of their language skills are:

Davina McCall

• TV Presenter • French

Daniel Craig

• Actor • German

Gary Lineker

• Retired footballer & BBC Sports Journalist
• Spanish & Japanese

Kelly Clarkson

• Singer • Greek

JK Rowling

• Author
• French, Portuguese & Spanish

Eddie Izzard

• Comedian • French & German

Gordon Ramsay

• Chef • French

Lucy Liu

• Actress
• Japanese, Chinese & Norwegian



Routes into Languages Cymru is a government funded project which aims to increase the numbers studying languages in Wales. Working with universities, the project provides up to date and relevant information about language learning and the opportunities available in Wales. Through events and activities, Routes Cymru highlights the benefits of languages to young people and promotes languages as an essential skill.

Routes into Languages Cymru is led by CILT Cymru and works in partnership with

- Bangor University • Aberystwyth University
- Glyndŵr University • University of Wales Trinity Saint David • Swansea University • Cardiff Metropolitan University (UWIC) • Cardiff University • University of South Wales
- The Open University in Wales • Swansea Metropolitan University

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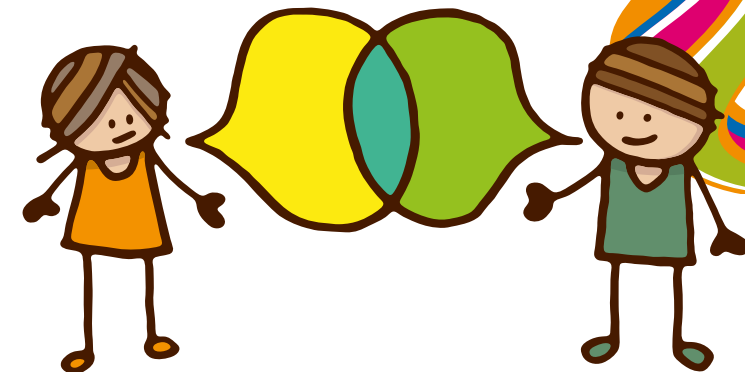
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The Routes into Languages programme was developed by three organisations working in partnership: the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML), the HE Academy Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS) and CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

The Routes into Languages Cymru programme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).



Languages: Your passport to success



Language myths

1

**Everyone speaks English:
The British don't need to learn
other languages**

75% of the world's population **do not** speak English

2

**Languages are too difficult:
you'll get better grades in other
subjects**

At both GCSE and A Level, French, German and Spanish are amongst the subjects where you are very likely to achieve a good grade

3

**The only jobs with languages are
teaching and translating**

Although teaching and translating are popular career choices, these are not your only options as a linguist. Here are some jobs that language students in Wales have gone on to do

Accountant Journalist
Solicitor Sports Coach
Administrative Officer
Website designer
Police Officer



Language facts

Only **25%** of the world's population speak English, and only **6%** as their first language

Spanish is the official language of **21** countries

Mandarin Chinese is one of the world's most influential languages – **1.12** billion people speak it

If you can speak another language you could earn up to **20% more**

Over 74% of employers are dissatisfied with school leavers' language skills

Customers prefer to buy from websites in their own language, even if the price is higher

Export businesses that use foreign languages achieve **45% more sales**

Customers addressed in their mother tongue are much more likely to do business with you

Languages mean Business in Wales

There are over 500 foreign-owned companies in Wales and many other Welsh companies who do business overseas. They are often looking to recruit people with foreign language skills.



"Foreign languages play a vital role in the success of our company. With 65% of our business being exported overseas it is essential that we have language skills available to us."

Sarah Grain, Key Account Manager, Eriez Magnetics Europe Ltd (speaker of French, German, Italian & Chinese)

"Business people who can speak multiple languages are really sought-after by employers. When the time comes for me to get a job, an ability to speak French will help me stand out to employers and open the door to more career prospects."

Paul Tebbs, Student of Marketing & French, Aberystwyth University