LINGUISTIC CONSULTANT: A linguistic consultant offers linguistic expertise as a contracted consultant and can work in a broad variety of settings. Many linguistic consultants have specific areas of expertise, such as lexicography, first language acquisition, computational linguistics or the translation between one specific language to another.

EDUCATION: *Some positions exist which require a minimum of a bachelor's degree as well as specialized work experience or expertise in a specific area such as English-to-Spanish translation. More often, a master's degree is required. Bilingual linguistic consultants are especially sought after for their fluency as well as their linguistic knowledge. Some positions exist in which no degree is required at all, only bilingual fluency and work experience in similar roles.*

LEXICOGRAPHER: Lexicographers collect and record information on how language is used as the language develops and changes. The nature of language growth and change and how a society changes the definitions of words in their collective understanding is a central focus to a lexicographer. Employment in this field would be offered mainly by dictionary publishers and would be rare in a secular environment.

EDUCATION: *This career requires a knowledge of grammar and computational linguistics, proficiency with research methods, open-mindedness to changing perceptions in the culture, and a strong eye for detail. A BA in Applied Linguistics at TWU can provide all the education credentials needed for this career.*

PSYCHOLINGUIST: This involves the study of how the human mind acquires and processes language. Often there is a research focus on first-language acquisition in children.

EDUCATION: *This is a science-oriented career focusing heavily on research. Advanced degrees in linguistics, communication and developmental psychology can be useful in preparing for a career in this field. Depending on areas of specialized focus and career aspirations, different combinations of degrees in these areas can be used. It is recommended that you research psycholinguists performing work that is similar to your desired focus and study their professional and educational backgrounds.*

TEACHER OF ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES: ESL teachers utilize linguistic and education techniques to teach to English students for whose first language is not English. Students range in age and educational level and classes can take place in almost any country in the world.

EDUCATION: *For many positions in teaching ESL, especially overseas, the only requirement is that you are a native speaker of English. For many other positions, further education is required, specifically, a minimum of a TESOL certificate or a degree in TESOL. TWU offers a complete TESOL certificate that qualifies the student to teach ESL locally or overseas. TWU also offers an MATESOL degree program. In many cases, teachers with certification or advanced degrees in TESOL do not need to be native speakers of English to succeed at a TESOL position.*

FILM DUBBING TECHNICIAN: Film dubbing is used in animated films as well as films which are translated from one language to another. This career could involve carefully translating dialogue in order to achieve not only the closest translation to the original meaning but also translated dialogue which closely mimics the movements of the original actors' mouths. A linguist in this field could provide any of three areas in this career: the translation, the sound-mixing or the acting/dubbing, depending on their interests and additional training.

EDUCATION: *No specific degrees are required for work in this field. Normally, the actor and translators are required to have native fluency of the target language. Skill in certain software programs such as Trados is helpful.*

LINGUISTIC RESOURCE

A great resource for linguistics career and educational information is www.linguistlist.org

CANADA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

7600 Glover Road
Langley, BC V2Y 1Y1
CANADA

1-888-513-2129 x3945
admissions@canil.ca

www.canil.ca

Linguistic Careers

IN SECULAR ENVIRONMENTS

Linguistics can be used in many diverse careers in education, medicine, science, psychology, politics, and many more.

CANADA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

DIALECT COACH: A dialect coach works with a person to alter their pronunciation. This is often used in teaching ESL but it can also be used in coaching those who want to learn an accent as well as those who want to reduce an accent. A dialect coach often acts as a private consultant to a client who hires them for this purpose. Clients may be from a part of the country or world with a very pronounced English accent and they feel that this limits their effectiveness in another part of the world or country. So they hire a dialect coach to alter their speech. Or, an actor may hire a dialect coach to teach them how to produce the accent of a certain character.

EDUCATION: *Since dialect coaching is most often an independent service offered on a freelance basis instead of as an employee of a company, there are not necessarily any strict training requirements for this career. There are several paths a person could take in their education to prepare. A BA degree in linguistics is a good place to start. Experience in teaching English as a second language can serve to perfect many teaching tools helpful in dialect coaching. Tailor your course selection to emphasize phonetics, phonology, elocution, second language acquisition, curriculum design, acting, sociolinguistics, personality theory (psychology) and education. Study the professional backgrounds of other dialect coaches in correlation with their areas of expertise. Thesis work in an issue specific to dialect coaching in graduate or doctoral level work will be a great advantage as well. One graduate degree to consider is the MATESOL program offered by TWU.*

COMPUTATIONAL LINGUIST: Computer programmers with linguistics training can help in developing new ways for computers to recognize and analyze human speech. This can be used in numerous industries, such as forensics, video gaming, software development, artificial intelligence, security technology and language teaching.

EDUCATION: *Linguistics training at every grammatical level as well as an education in computer programming is crucial to a position in this growing field. A BA in Applied Linguistics from TWU and a BA or MA in Computer Science (not offered at TWU) could be a good starting point.*

INTERPRETER / TRANSLATOR: Interpretation and translation play a crucial role in an increasingly global marketplace. They require a person not only highly fluent in more than one language, but also a person familiar with complex translation concepts. This requires intelligence, accuracy, cultural sensitivity and diplomacy. Interpreters can be used in government, business, tourism, publishing and many other areas.

EDUCATION: *Advanced fluency, both verbal and written, in at least two languages is required for any interpreter or translator. Often, a degree in at least one of these languages is necessary (assuming that the interpreter has advanced native fluency in the other). Advanced degrees are often required for written translation of literary works or for interpretation in highly sensitive political contexts. Many interpreters begin their career as bilingual secretaries, able to perform clerical tasks in more than one language.*

SOCIOLINGUIST: Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. It is often a research-based career, involving the publication of sociolinguistic observations. Many sociolinguists conduct studies apart from their regular employment, funded by grant money or by royalties of publications. Sociolinguists often become professors at post-secondary institutions.

EDUCATION: *Employment in this field is broadly varied but most often requires a great deal of independent effort at creating the career. It may begin out of thesis research for a graduate degree and grow from there as opportunities arise. For the most part, advanced degrees are required for work in this field.*

FORENSIC LINGUIST: Forensic linguistics involves the use of linguistics in relationship to law and crime. Forensic linguists analyze the speech and communication of criminals, witnesses and suspects to decipher linguistic clues to solve legal cases.

EDUCATION: *Educational requirements vary greatly for this career. A minimum of a bachelor's degree is usually required in linguistics, psychology or criminal justice. Advanced degrees in linguistics are usually required to establish expert level credentials for providing expert testimony in court.*

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: Speech pathology, also known as speech therapy, involves the use of linguistics in the medical field. This is rapidly growing profession. A speech pathologist works with children, stroke victims and various other patients with speech impediments. Speech pathologists can provide a kind of physical therapy to teach clients to speak after a brain injury or to help a child with a language learning disorder. They analyze a patient's communication to help diagnose the nature of the difficulty (hearing, tongue movement, throat injury, etc).

EDUCATION: *A minimum of a master's degree in speech pathology is required for most positions in this field. Requirements for entrance into a speech pathology gradate degree program often require courses in specific areas of linguistics and psychology. CanIL offers many of the required linguistics courses and TWU offers many of the required psychology courses. A student who is considering this career path should tailor their undergraduate course selection toward fulfilling the prerequisites of the specific graduate program of interest. TWU does not offer a graduate degree in speech pathology at this time but students who have earned a BA in Applied Linguistics at TWU have been accepted to speech pathology graduate programs in other institutions.*

AUDIOLOGIST: Audiologists work in the medical field with patients who have hearing and/or balance problems. These professionals may work in medical offices, schools or health product stores.

EDUCATION: *Usually a minimum of a master's degree in audiology is required for this career. In some cases, a PhD is required. A linguistics degree tailored toward the fields of neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics may be helpful in the overall education for this career.*

MILITARY LINGUIST: The armed forces of almost any country need personnel trained in linguistics for interpretation, decryption and forensics. They may listen to radio transmissions and interpret or decode them to detect enemies. They may also be used to help interpret between military forces and civilians in various contexts.

EDUCATION: *A degree in linguistics or in a specific language will often be a desirable asset to the military. The armed forces can provide further training for specific military tasks related to linguistics which are often classified.*

NEUROLINGUIST: A neurolinguist studies the language centre of the brain and investigates what functions are lost when this part of the brain is damaged or developmentally disabled. They look for ways to regain language function after injury or in contexts of neural disorders such as autism.

EDUCATION: *This is a science-oriented career focusing heavily on research. Advanced degrees in linguistics, communication, speech & hearing and psychology can be useful in preparing for this career. Depending on areas of specialized focus and career aspirations, different combinations of degrees in these areas can be used. It is recommended that you research neurolinguists performing work that is similar to your desired focus and study their professional and educational backgrounds.*

TECHNICAL WRITER: Technical writers use considerable expertise in grammar as well as industry-specific technical language to either write literature on a subject or translate literature from one language to another. For both bilingual and monolingual technical writers, attention to grammatical detail is paramount. Literature that is written or translated often falls under the category of product manuals, procedure and policy manuals and legal documents. Technical writing can often be done from a home office.

EDUCATION: *A bachelor's degree in linguistics or in one or more languages is often a good place to begin this career, although not a strict requirement. Excellent grammatical skills and a strong interest in technology are also helpful. Personal study of specific software programs can be the best track to beginning this career.*

LANGUAGE TEACHER: Language teachers can choose to teach one or multiple languages at a variety of educational levels. Many public and private schools provide foreign language classes with either a set curriculum or the flexibility to allow the language teacher to implement their own methods.

EDUCATION: *Depending on the demographic of the students, language teachers may need credentials ranging from a bachelor's degree in education or the language they are teaching to advanced degrees in either or both. Native fluency in a language is not usually sufficient for this career.*