



# CAREERS FOR FRENCH GRADUATES

## FRENCH AT UCC

French is one of Europe's most important working languages and the French-speaking world continues to be a driver of cultural innovation and dynamism. To study French language and Francophone cultures is to enhance your vision of the world. During your degree you will acquire excellent communication skills whilst also developing your analytical and critical thinking abilities. A degree in French will put you in a strong position to enter the job market in an increasingly globalised world.

# WHAT CAN FRENCH GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

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Students of French develop transferable skills that are relevant to life and work beyond UCC. Communication, adaptability and resourcefulness, research and problem-solving, critical thinking and inter-cultural awareness are all skills developed through studying languages that can help graduates to thrive in the 21st century workplace.

- Strong linguistic competency in French.
- An ability to think critically and develop a convincing evidence-based argument.
- The knowledge and skills required to research a topic and engagingly present the results.
- The capacity to respond creatively to intellectual questions.



- Effective verbal and written communication.

- A high level of intercultural competency.

- The capacity to identify the detail that matters.

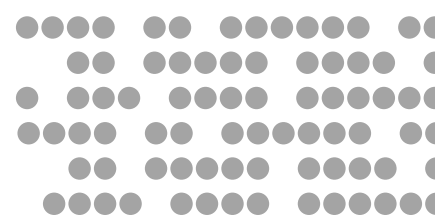
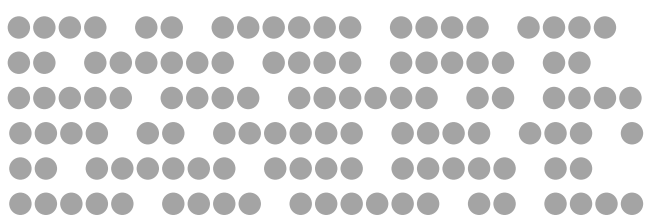
- An international outlook informed by a range of cultural contexts.



# GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR FRENCH

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UCC Career Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on an annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. Last year, 96% of Arts graduates with French as a major or minor subject were in employment or further study. Students study French as a subject offered within a range of degrees including the Bachelor of Arts (BA), BCL Law and French and BComm with French. You can see the 5-year trends for graduates of these programmes at the following link:



## GRADUATE STUDIES

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A degree in French is an excellent basis for further study. The School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers a range of taught postgraduate courses including the MA in Translation Studies, MA in Languages and Cultures and MA in Applied Linguistics. The department also offers research opportunities at postgraduate level including the MRes and a three-year PhD programme in French studies. Graduates of French at UCC have also gone on to pursue postgraduate qualifications abroad, at institutions such as the Collège d'Europe.

# AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR FRENCH GRADUATES



A degree in French opens doors to a range of sectors including media, journalism, education, diplomacy, international businesses organisations, NGOs and the cultural sector. Our graduates are independent individuals with excellent attention to detail, skills that many employers look for when recruiting. Some areas in which our graduates go on to work are listed below:

Graduates of French at UCC have held journalism positions in BBC Radio Four, the Irish Examiner, the Irish Independent and Bloomberg.

01

Many of our graduates pursue careers in business, working in international food companies and at organisations such as Google, Facebook and TransferWise.

02





Our students are now working in translation companies across Ireland and Europe, as well as in organisations such as the European Commission.

03

Graduates of French at UCC have gone on to work for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, EU institutions and the UN.

04

Our graduates have pursued careers in teaching in Cork, in Ireland, and even much further afield in Australia and New Zealand.

05

Some of our graduates go on to work in the legal divisions of multinational organisations; others become Legal Researchers or Human Rights Consultants.

06

The cultural sector attracts many of our graduates who now work in publishing, the museum and heritage sector as well as galleries and media outlets such as RTE.

07



## Graduate Profile 1

### **FIONA KEARNEY**

I am the Director of the Glucksman, a purpose-built contemporary art museum on the campus of UCC.

My undergraduate degree in French and Philosophy introduced me to the study of visual culture and an Erasmus year in Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III opened me up to the research possibilities of contemporary art in literary and philosophical contexts.

My French degree was the pathway to my current career and it has been invaluable to have French as a language in my own research and engagement with the contemporary art world as well as in connecting French culture to Irish audiences.



## Graduate Profile 2

### **BECKY WALSH**

I am an Editor at John Murray Publishers in London publishing literary fiction. I've worked in publishing for seven years and without a doubt my degree from UCC has been

very beneficial. I studied English Literature and French, spending my third year abroad in Clermont Ferrand. In my day-to-day job, I use the analytical skills I gained from my degree and I also get the opportunity to use my French – I read manuscripts that come to us from France in the hope that we will translate them into English. This international, multilingual dimension is important.



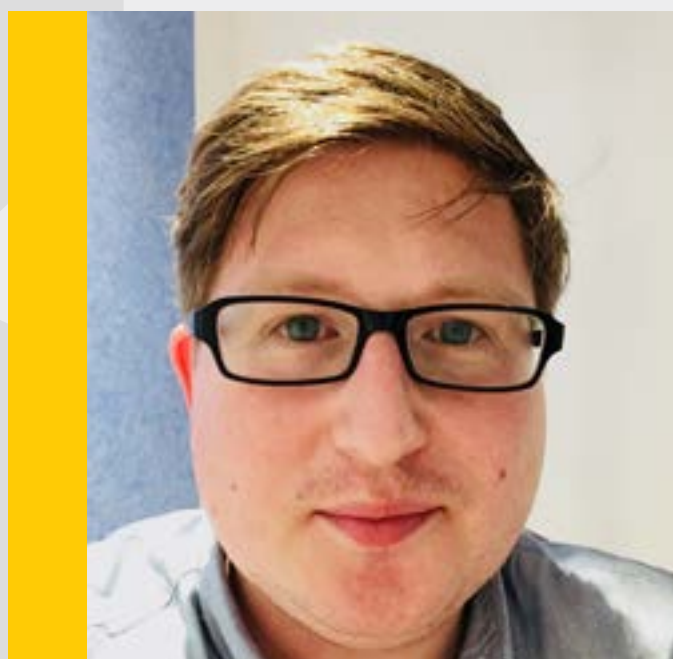
### Graduate Profile 3

## **COLM DOYLE**

I am an AML/CTF Compliance Specialist at TransferWise. I'm the creator of the language Nymeran, featured in Mythopoeia's comic Glow.

Studying French at UCC

certainly set me up for success in both my academic and professional lives. It gave me a foundation in linguistics upon which I undertook an M.Phil. in Applied Linguistics and Ph.D. in Linguistics. In addition, my degree in French secured me my first job after UCC as a French-language teacher in two highschools in Tallinn, Estonia. Knowledge of the language was instrumental in my first role at TransferWise as an English and French-language customer support associate.



### Graduate Profile 4

## **MÉABH NÍ DRISCEOIL**

I am a diplomat in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Having served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Hungary, I now work in the

Middle East Unit. I studied Law

and French at UCC and benefited from an Erasmus year at the Université de Strasbourg. My Erasmus experience encouraged me to pursue further study abroad, and I undertook an LLM in European Law at the Collège d'Europe in Bruges. My language skills were a great asset at the start of my career when I did a stage at the European Commission, and I've seen how languages help to open doors and build relationships with key stakeholders.





# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

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**STUDY  
FRENCH  
AT UCC**



**BCL LAW  
AND  
FRENCH**



**BCOMM  
(INTERNATIONAL)  
WITH FRENCH**



**ENTERPRISE  
IRELAND**



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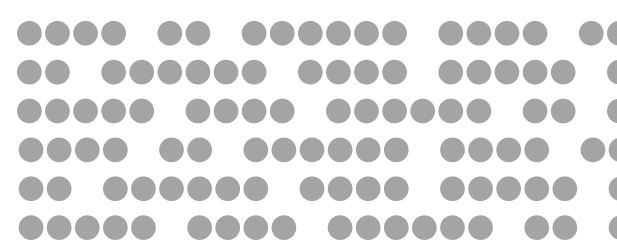
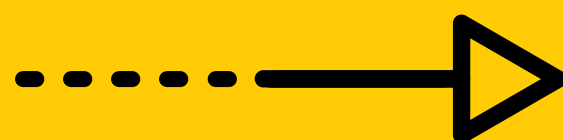
**LANGUAGES  
CONNECT**



**IRISH TRANSLATORS'  
AND INTERPRETERS'  
ASSOCIATION**



**THE TEACHING  
COUNCIL**



# 12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR FRENCH DEGREE TO WORK

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01

Attend careers workshops and talks given by past graduates and qualified professionals in your field.

02

Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering – find out more by attending the annual UCC volunteering fair.

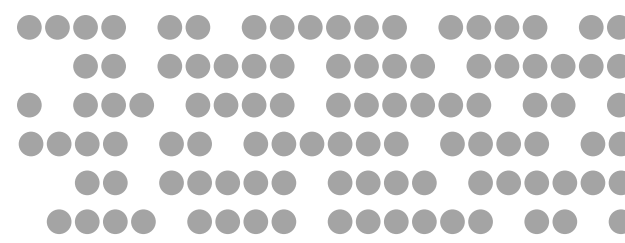
03

Prepare for your future career by availing of opportunities for professional development.

04

Participate in workshops to help you create an up-to-date CV in French and English.





**05**

Network with professionals in Ireland and the wider French-speaking world.

**06**

Gain relevant skills and experience by taking an active role in a club/society that interests you, or the Student's Union.

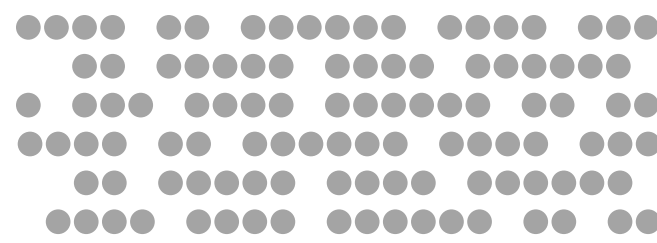
**07**

Avail of professional, confidential and impartial careers advice at UCC Career Services by booking a consultation online.

**08**

Regularly engage with French-language Literature, Film, TV and Radio to develop a knowledge of French language and culture in your personal areas of interest.





**09**

Create and maintain a professional social media presence.

**10**

Attend employer events on campus and use them to build relationships with potential employers.

**11**

Build on your degree with a masters course in Translation Studies, Applied Linguistics or Languages and Cultures for further specialist training.

**12**

Visit French-speaking countries over the summer during your degree to practice your language skills.



# DID YOU KNOW?

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According to recent data from the US, French graduates access among the **highest average salaries and levels of job satisfaction** among Arts and Humanities graduates (Business Insider, 2019).



# CONTACT US



**UCC Career Services,  
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Western Road, UCC**



**021 4902500  
021 4903202**



**Email Careers**



**Email Graduate  
Recruitment**



**Book an  
appointment  
to meet a  
careers advisor**



**Work  
Placement**





## **UCC Works Award Programme**



**Connect with  
your job**

## **UCC Careers**



## **MyStudentJob**



## **Employability Events**

**Careers Fairs, Roadshows,  
Employer Presentations**



## **Volunteering Opportunities**

