GRADUATE JOBS USING IRISH

gradireland

Your career with Irish

Graduate careers using Irish including:
• Media  • Culture  • Business
• Translating  • Public sector
• Law, IT and more

• Opportunities in Ireland, north and south
• Useful resources
• Graduate profiles
• Getting a job

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gradireland – brought to you by your Careers Service and published by the
Introducing your career with Irish

Not only does the work we do really challenge me, but there is an immense sense of satisfaction that goes with it, and I’m lucky to be working with incredibly inspiring people who are also madly passionate about the Irish language.

Sine Nic an Alli, Development Executive, Conradh na Gaeilge

Read more about graduates working in Irish on pages 29–37

Where could I work?

Opportunities are available throughout Ireland, especially in the Gaeltacht areas in Counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork, Waterford and Meath.

Opportunities to work abroad exist primarily in the European Commission. In the area of Irish-language teaching, opportunities are available in North America and EU countries.

See pages 8–23 for details regarding different sectors of work.

Did you know?

• Barristers with Irish make up a significant proportion of the Bar Council and there are over 155 registered as having fluent, or a working knowledge of Irish.
• At least 158 translators are working through Irish and licensed by Foras na Gaeilge.
• In 2012, there were over 400 primary and secondary Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools throughout Ireland.
• Many job opportunities exist for bilingual researchers, producers, journalists, IT and other technical-specialists in the area of broadcast media.
• Opportunities exist for Irish speaking actors and writers, especially in programmes commissioned for television.
• Many Irish speakers have been employed by PR companies because of clients’ needs to be represented in the Irish media and to comply with the requirements of the Official Languages Act.
• The European Union regularly advertises upcoming competitions for various positions within the EU on the EPSO website, including lawyer-linguist positions.
• Demand for Irish teachers abroad is increasing. Opportunities exist for Irish speaking actors and writers, especially in programme commissionsed for television.
• Many job opportunities exist for bilingual researchers, producers, journalists, IT and other technical-specialists in the area of broadcast media.

Developing your skills

Practical experience helps to develop a range of skills. Experience includes activities through student clubs and societies and volunteering as well as paid and unpaid work.

A broad selection of postgraduate courses are currently available through the medium of Irish for students who wish to further their education and to complement their primary degree with additional knowledge and skills. Graduates are encouraged to use the online resources suggested in this booklet and to keep abreast of the Irish language media and information resources. These will help develop an understanding of the various sectors and the opportunities available.

See pages 28–30 for information about postgraduate study.

Incorporating Irish into your working life – ten tips

• Use mobile phone services provided through Irish.
• Choose an Irish language internet browser such as Mozilla Firefox.
• Demonstrate knowledge of your sector of choice by using digital media skills, eg maintaining a blog. You will impress your peers and prospective employers.
• Ensure your LinkedIn profile includes your level of Irish language proficiency.
• Include ‘Cuirtear failte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge’ in your e-mail signature box.
• Use a bilingual phone message, or say ‘Go raibh maith agat’ at the end.
• Buy a Fáinne. This is a little pin that indicates a proficiency and a willingness to converse in Irish. These are available from www.fainne.ie.
• Suggest incorporating Irish into your organisation’s marketing strategy or publicity material.
• Offer to represent your organisation (if appropriate) on Irish-speaking national and local radio and television programmes, or provide copy in Irish for the media.
• Sign up for regular e-mail updates from gaelport.com and similar Irish language websites.
Getting a job

Things to consider when looking for a job using your Irish language skills.

When choosing where to apply for a job, consider to what extent you wish to use Irish on a daily basis. Some organisations operate exclusively through Irish, whereas others incorporate Irish into a mainly English context. If you are looking to immerse yourself in the language, focus on Irish language organisations, the Irish language media or Gaeltacht-based organisations. If you want to use some Irish, identify companies whose clients include Irish language organisations or whose senior management have a keen interest in the language.

Applications and interviews

Establish whether or not your application should be in Irish and also what the working language of the recruitment and selection process will be. It is essential that the spelling in your CV is accurate (both in the Irish and English versions). There are a number of Irish spell and grammar checkers available online (eg Ceart, GaelSpell or Anois) or via the free Irish language add-ons for Firefox, OpenOffice and Thunderbird. They are also available to purchase for Microsoft Word on PC and Mac platforms. If you are unable to access one of these commercial products, ask someone to proofread your CV before sending it.

See pages 6–2 for a sample CV that highlights the candidate’s interest and aptitude in the Irish language.

When you are called for interview, find out if your interview will be in Irish or English and whether it will include a written test?

Stay up to date with the sector by keeping an eye on the Irish-language media. Brush up on any relevant terminology. Useful resources include focal.ie and Pota Focal (potafoical.com).

For more CV and interview tips, consult the gradireland directory and gradireland.com or your college careers service.

Finding vacancies

Joining a professional networking site such as LinkedIn.com can be beneficial. Twitter and Facebook are useful sources for job vacancies. Many jobs are advertised on Twitter under the hashtags #jobfair and #folutaí, and companies and individuals regularly post links to jobs on their Facebook pages.

Job vacancies are published in Fóinse each Wednesday and Gaelport.com has comprehensive listings of Irish language jobs, updated daily on www.gaelport.com/folutaí.

Work experience, placements and/internships

Many companies offer structured work experience in conjunction with college courses while others offer paid internship programmes. In the absence of such internships, you can take the initiative yourself. Decide which career area appeals to you and then investigate the possibility of gaining experience within an organisation where fluency in Irish would be an asset.

Organisations in the following sectors welcome applications:

1. Publishing: It is worth sending a cover letter and CV to organisations such as Publishing Ireland (Fiúslí Éireann) and Children’s Books Ireland. There are various Irish language publishing houses such as Cló-íar Chóirnacht, Cois Life and An Gúm. Most of these are small companies and worth approaching for work experience, as students can expect to be involved in many different aspects of the job.

2. Media: Many Irish language media personalities started out by working voluntarily in radio stations, television stations and newspapers throughout the country. It is vitally important to make contacts and to broaden your skills base, and work experience is a great way to do this.

Irish language organisations: Many are listed in this guide and examples include Foras na Gaeilge and Gael Linn.

Companies located in the Gaeltacht: these could be in any sector from IT to film production.

The arts: Annual festivals provide excellent opportunities for relevant experience both paid and unpaid in areas such as event management, administration and performance.

Occasionally placements with events such as Oireachtas na Samhna and Pan Celtic are advertised through college careers services. More usually, they are not advertised and many candidates secure their own placements through contacts made socially and by researching possible opportunities.

Official work experience schemes

Official work experience schemes after graduation through the medium of Irish include:

1. Fiontar DCU: Fiontar DCU runs graduate internship schemes and also offers work experience which is open to graduates of all degree disciplines, particularly in the area of research. Some graduates have been part of research project teams, working on projects such as focal.ie and logainm.ie.

2. European Commission: The Directorate General of Translation in the European Commission offers graduate traineeships of five months’ duration twice each year. There are two intakes, in March and October. The Commission also offers similar administrative traineeships. Applicants must have a very good knowledge of at least two EU languages to be eligible.

RESOURCES

Vacancies

- gradireland.com Vacancies and careers advice
- Fóinse www.foinse.ie National Irish language newspaper including Wednesday jobs section
- Folutaí www.gaelport.com/folutaí Irish language news and information with daily job updates
- Local Government Jobs www.localgovernmentjobs.ie Vacancies in local Government
- Northern Ireland Civil Service’s Recruitment Website www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk
- Public Appointments Service www.publicjobs.ie
- EducationCareers.ie www.educationcareers.ie
- Education careers search engine
- EducationPosts.ie www.educationposts.com
- Education recruitment website

Other resources

- Focal.ie www.focal.ie National Terminology Database
- Pota Focal www.potafocal.com Online dictionaries
- Udarás na Gaeltachta www.udaras.ie Gaeltacht regional authority
- Cruinneog www.cruinneog.ie Irish spell and grammar checker software
- Foras na Gaeilge www.gaeilge.ie The cross-border language promotional agency

Fiontar D CU: Fiontar D CU runs graduate internship schemes and also offers work experience which is open to graduates of all degree disciplines, particularly in the area of research. Some graduates have been part of research project teams, working on projects such as focal.ie and logainm.ie.

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- Folutaí www.gaelport.com/folutaí Irish language news and information with daily job updates
- Local Government Jobs www.localgovernmentjobs.ie Vacancies in local Government
- Northern Ireland Civil Service’s Recruitment Website www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk
- Public Appointments Service www.publicjobs.ie
- EducationCareers.ie www.educationcareers.ie
- Education careers search engine
- EducationPosts.ie www.educationposts.com
- Education recruitment website

Other resources

- Focal.ie www.focal.ie National Terminology Database
- Pota Focal www.potafocal.com Online dictionaries
- Udarás na Gaeltachta www.udaras.ie Gaeltacht regional authority
- Cruinneog www.cruinneog.ie Irish spell and grammar checker software
- Foras na Gaeilge www.gaeilge.ie The cross-border language promotional agency
Sample CV

Aisling Ni Cheallaigh
19 Charlemont Road
Clontarf
County Dublin

Tel: 01 2827930
Email: aisling.micheallaigh@gmail.com
LinkedIn profile: ie.linkedin.com/a-ni-cheallaigh

Education

2011–2012
MSc in Gníomhaíocht an Eolaíos
Fiontar DCU
Result: Expected Honours 2:1
Relevant Modules: Strategic Marketing Management, Project Management, Leadership, Human Resources Management, Multimedia, Research Methods
Thesis topic: Advertising and the Irish Language Market

2007–2011
BA Gníomhaíocht an Ghaeilge
Galway-Mayo IT, Galway
Result: Honours 2:1
Relevant subjects: Business Information Technology, Computing, Economics, Marketing and Communications
Work experience: One semester with national broadcaster TG4 in 2008/09

2002–2007
Leaving Certificate
Dominican College, Galway
Results: Irish A1, English B3, French A2, Mathematics B2, Business A1, Geography C1, Biology C2

Employment history

September 2011 to date
Marketing Executive
Conradh na Gaeilge, Dublin
• Liaising and networking with colleagues, partner organisations, the media and the public
• Sourcing advertising opportunities
• Managing the production of marketing materials including pens, leaflets and stickers
• Writing and proofreading press releases
• Organising events including the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis where over 500 people attended
• Developing the organisation’s use of social networking which resulted in 15% more traffic to website over the course of six months
• Co-ordinator of the ‘Is Leor Béirt’ scheme (national network of Irish-language conversation circles)

June–August 2010
Summer Colleges’ Co-ordinator
Conradh na Gaeilge, Dublin
• Successfully co-ordinated Gáid Leis campaign which encouraged and enabled people across all ages/sectors of society to use services through Irish.

Sept 2009 – May 2010
Project Assistant
Maithú IT Solutions, Dublin
• As part of a team of five, worked on the development of Get the Focal (English-Irish Translator for your mobile phone)
• Contributed to the further development of this product, which resulted in the development of an App, available for download on iTunes.

Summer 2009
Marketing Intern
Gáillimh le Gaeilge
• Responsible for communicating with partners, customers and the general public
• Attended and helped organise events
• Established social networking sites for the company

Voluntary work

2010 to date
Radio Presenter/Producer
Raidió na Life, Dublin
• Presented and produced ‘Mbun ghnó’, a weekly business and current affairs programme
• Produced Caint agus Ceol, a series of music and chat programmes

2007–2010
Youth Club Leader
Áras na nGael, Galway

Skills profile

Languages: Fluent Irish and French
Communication: Excellent presentation and social skills, experience in public relations
Organisational: Successfully organised range of events and campaigns, including Salthill carnival blitz, now run annually
Team work: Involved in sports teams and former youth club leader
IT: Microsoft Office, Keynote, Audacity, Adobe Audition, Quark Express

Interests and achievements

Sport: Active member of Salthill GAA Club
Acting: Acted in various plays with Na Crosóga, Irish Language Drama Club
Film: Particular interest in world cinema and French films
Music: Fiddle player, member of Irish traditional music group Téada

Referees
Mr/Ms Dr...
Chief Executive Officer, Conradh na Gaeilge Fiontar DCU,
6 Harcourt Street, Dublin City University
Dublin 9
Tel: 01 8482019
Email: ...

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Over 750 people are employed in the Irish language media sector, between television, radio, newspapers and digital media. This figure is growing rapidly as the sector develops an online presence to complement traditional print and broadcast media. TG4, the Irish language television channel, reported a 56 per cent increase in unique web visitors in 2011 and a 143 per cent growth in page impressions compared with the previous year. And as digital and social media become more popular and accessible this brings new employment possibilities for journalists, technicians, researchers and translators.

Media is a competitive sector and by its nature is constantly changing and developing. Graduates with multimedia skills and an openness to learn are an asset to this sector.

Fluency in the Irish language and knowledge of the Irish language sector is also an advantage, as it allows you to work on a wider range of projects and develop new ones.

For graduates with an interest in Irish language media and training, see the Training and development section on pages 28–30.

National Irish language media awards (Gradaim Chumarsáide an Oireachtas) are presented annually to journalists, actors, presenters, and many more people involved in the sector.

Print media
Newspapers
Feinse is the main Irish language newspaper and is distributed free with the Irish Independent. It also has a website. Gaeilge is now an online news service funded by Foras na Gaeilge.

Regular articles in the Irish language are published in the national newspapers, such as The Irish Times and The Irish News, as well as in local papers. These provide opportunities to submit work with the potential to get published. Gaeltacht.com curates a daily news service called ‘As na muachtain’ listing all Irish language articles published in national and regional press.

Magazines
There are many magazine titles available in Irish, including Comhairfeasa, An tUitche, An Sagart and An Timire. Online magazines include the following titles: Beo, Saol, Gaeltacht and Nós. Nós and Saol complement their print magazines with websites that enable readers to access extra news coverage and other content.

See Orla Bradshaw’s profile on page 24 to read about working as an Irish language journalist.
Broadcast media
The level of broadcasting funds available for Irish programming ensures that graduates with fluency in Irish are employable in this sector. There are job opportunities in broadcasting for bilingual researchers, producers and journalists as well as IT and other technical specialists.

Radio
Several radio stations broadcast completely through the medium of Irish while others broadcast several programmes in Irish. Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week and also streams online. Anocht FM has developed a contemporary service with programmes aimed at young people.

Digital media
Nuacht24 is a news portal serving the Irish language community, in Ireland and internationally. This service includes breaking news and daily videos, as well as feature articles, interviews and arts reviews.

Television
TG4 is the Irish language broadcaster, based in the Connemara Gaeltacht. It provides a wide range of programming including sports, travel, music, fashion and children’s programmes. Its regular soap opera, Ros na Rún, has made its mark as has the channel’s distinctive news service, Nuacht TG4.

Social media and blogs
Most Irish language newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations have a social media presence, connecting with listeners and readers through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. An Irish language version of Facebook is available, Another social media site, Abair Leat, is run entirely through Irish and aims to connect Irish speakers throughout the world. There are currently over sixty Irish language blogs online.

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland broadcasts to the greater Dublin area and Raidió Fáilte broadcasts to the Belfast area, both through the medium of Irish. Raidió an tSír, serving the Newry and Mourne district, broadcasts 50 per cent of its programmes through the medium of Irish.

Funding
Funding for Irish language film and programme makers is available in the Republic of Ireland from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Film Board, and FilmBase, and in Northern Ireland from the Irish Language Broadcast Fund. The broadcasters TG4, RTÉ and BBC NI also commission programmes. The Irish Language Broadcast Fund, also has a range of schemes.

Areas of work
programmes through Irish, such as Anocht, the daily news in Irish. BBC Northern Ireland also broadcasts programmes in Irish such as the magazine programme imeall, Gaeil and the music programme Blas Creol. They have an expanding Irish language unit in Belfast, broadcasting on television and radio.

Blas Creol.

Raidió Rí-Rá is an Irish language chart music radio station broadcasting online.

Local radio stations regularly broadcast Irish language programmes. New commercial and community radio stations operating in the Republic of Ireland are required to include Irish language content in their schedules.

Further information about Irish language radio broadcasting is available on Cogair.ie.

The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland provides funding to Irish language programming on television and radio under the broadcasting funding scheme, Sound and Vision.

Televised media
TG4 is the Irish language broadcaster, based in the Connemara Gaeltacht. It provides a wide range of programming including sports, travel, music, fashion and children’s programmes. Its regular soap opera, Ros na Rún, has made its mark as has the channel’s distinctive news service, Nuacht TG4.

Digital media
Nuacht24 is a news portal serving the Irish language community, in Ireland and internationally. This service includes breaking news and daily videos, as well as feature articles, interviews and arts reviews.

Gaelport.com is an Irish language news and information platform with five news streams updated daily. It publishes breaking Irish language news on topics such as education, politics, arts, culture and the Gaeltacht as well as feature articles, videos, photo galleries and live blogs.

Cogair.ie, a news service for Irish language broadcasters re-launched in 2012, has a strong focus on social media.

Other Irish language digital media projects include Dúil and Meon Eile. Dúil is a bilingual online service connecting with listeners and readers through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. An Irish language version of Facebook is available, Another social media site, Abair Leat, is run entirely through Irish and aims to connect Irish speakers throughout the world. There are currently over sixty Irish language blogs online.

Mobile and computer technology
Graduates with IT and multimedia skills may find a role in mobile and computer technology. There are opportunities for graduates with an interest in technology and a knowledge of Irish to break into this market and develop further services through Irish.

There is a wide variety of Irish language apps available for download. Apps for some Irish language print and broadcast media have been created to allow the public to access their services through different platforms and devices. Other Irish language apps include Irish language dictionaries, translators, books and more.

Other Irish language developments include the following:

- Meteor provides an Irish language voicemail service, having developed the Tocco, a mobile phone specifically for the Irish language market, which includes Irish language predictive text.
- Vodafone and Foras na Gaeilge have developed free software, Teacs, which also allows you to use predictive text in Irish on your mobile phone.

Several computer software products have the option of an Irish-language interface. Prominent examples include KDE, Mozilla Firefox, Mozilla Thunderbird, OpenOffice.org, and Microsoft Windows XP Vbulletin, the most popular software for hosting online chat forums, has an Irish-language option. It is used by Fórum na Gaeilge, Political World and PeoplesRepublicOfCork.com.

See Michael Thornhill’s profile on page 26 on working with mobile technology.

Funding
Funding for Irish language film and programme makers is available in the Republic of Ireland from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Film Board, and FilmBase, and in Northern Ireland from the Irish Language Broadcast Fund. The broadcasters TG4, RTÉ and BBC NI also commission programmes. The Irish Language Broadcast Fund, also has a range of schemes.

See the Training and development section on pages 28–30.

Following the success of the previous schemes, Siol, Údar, and Scoil, Scoil 2 is a development scheme that offers talented new Irish-speaking writers/directors an opportunity to adapt a well-known story from Irish language literature or folklore into a half-hour short film. Successful applicants will be given the opportunity to develop the story into the basic script to the eventual production and broadcast stage.
Areas of work

Resource
- gradireland.com/media Media and publishing section on gradireland.com

Print media
- Feasta www.feasta.ie A monthly Irish language literary journal
- Foinsie www.foinsie.ie National Irish language newspaper
- Nós www.nosmag.com Irish language magazine
- Comhar www.iriscomhar.com Irish language magazine

Television
- BBC www.bbc.co.uk/irish BBC Irish language website
- Gréasán na Meán Skillnet www.greasannamean.ie Network of media businesses based in the Connemara Gaeltacht
- Irish Film and Television Network www.iftn.ie
- RTE www.rte.ie
- Screen Producers Ireland www.screenproducersireland.com Representative body for independent film, television, and animation producers
- TG4 www.tg4.ie Irish language television channel

Digital media
- Abair Leat abairleat.com Irish language social networking site
- Beo! www.beo.ie Internet magazine for Irish speakers
- Boards.ie www.boards.ie Includes Irish language forum
- Cogar www.cogar.ie News service for Irish language broadcasters
- Dúl f www.dul.ie Bilingual website with news and reviews of Irish language arts and events
- Gaelscéal www.gaelscéal.ie Irish language news website
- Gaeilscéal www.gaelscéal.ie Irish language news website
- iGaeilge www.igaeilge.ie Popular current affairs blog
- Meon Eile www.meoneile.ie Online news service based in Belfast
- nuachts24 www.nuachts24.com Online breaking news service based in Belfast
- nuacht1.com www.nuacht1.com Links to Irish language news and events
- Saol www.saol.gaeilge.ie Online magazine and news service

Radio
- Blas www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas Irish language radio programme
- Raidió Rí-Rá www.rri.ie Online Irish language radio station
- Raidió Fáilte www.raidiофailте.com Irish language radio station, based in Belfast
- Raidió na Life www.raidsionalife.ie Irish language radio station, based in Dublin
- RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta www.rte.ie/irag National Gaeltacht and Irish language radio station

Supporting and funding
- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland www.bai.ie
- Filmbase www filmm base.ie Not-for-profit filmmakers’ resource centre. Publishes Film Ireland and oversees award schemes, provides networking support for Irish filmmakers.
- Irish Film Board www.iris filmboard.ie Ireland’s national film agency
- Northern Ireland Screen www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk National screen agency for Northern Ireland
- Sceilí2 www.tg4.ie/scéal Supporting Irish language television script writing

Irish language production companies:
- Abú Media www.abumedia.com
- Animo www.anim o.ie
- Fibín www.fibin.com
- Nementó www.nementon.ie Provides training in conjunction with WIT
- Red Shoe Productions www.redshoe.ie
- Rong www. rong.ie
- TeleGael www.telegael.com
- Tobár www tobarpproductions.com

Translation
Opportunities available include translating, proofreading, software localisation, sub-titling, project management, language co-ordination and quality management.

Employment opportunities for translators exist in public organisations, government bodies, the European institutions and private organisations. The Houses of the Oireachtas have their own translation (and interpreting) service – Rannóg an Aistriúcháin.

For those looking to pursue a career in translating

The European Union operates the largest translation service in the world. Opportunities are available as administrators, translators and lawyer-linguists. To secure a permanent position within EU institutions, candidates must pass an open competition. From time to time, temporary or contract positions arise. To obtain secure employment as a translator within the EU, it is necessary to have the ability to work with three European languages. Since Irish became an official working language of the EU in 2007 there has been a steady demand for people who can translate into Irish and this demand may well increase over the next few years.

Some translators work in-house, but most work on a freelance basis. In-house translators are salaried employees, working on a full-time basis in public organisations or in private translation companies, some of which specialise in the Irish language. Freelance translators are usually self-employed and work from home. They are commissioned by translation agencies or companies directly. Companies source these from the list of accredited translators from the Foras na Gaeilge website and from the ITIA register.

The highest standards of translation are demanded by all customers, including public organisations, government bodies in Ireland, the European institutions and private organisations. Experienced translators would be expected to produce up to 2,000 words per day, depending on the type of text. Many professional translators use translation software in their day-to-day work.

Subject-specific terminology is an integral part of that expertise. To work in this sector, a postgraduate qualification in translation studies or interpreting is advisable. A primary degree in languages is desirable, though not essential.

The Official Languages Act (2003) and the recognition of Irish as an official working language of the European Union has resulted in increased opportunities in the area of translation and interpreting.

Translation involves producing a text in a different language ensuring the original meaning is retained, for a specific audience and purpose. Interpreting differs from translation in that it is based on verbal and not written communication.

To become a Professional Member of the Irish Translators’ and Interpreters’ Association (ITIA) you are required to pass the Professional Membership Examination, in addition to having between two and five years’ translation experience and/or a qualification as a translator/interpreter.

Foras na Gaeilge holds an annual exam as part of their accreditation system – Séala Creidmheasaithe D’Aisteoirithein Gaeilge. Those who pass this exam are included on the Foras na Gaeilge panel of accredited translators. These translators must pass the exam every five years in order to remain on the panel.

Much of the subject matter dealt with by both translators and interpreters is specialised in nature, so preparation and familiarity with the subject area in question is required. Professionals in this area often develop expertise in and knowledge of a subject area such as business, law or medicine after a number of years. Subject-specific terminology is an integral part of that expertise. To work in this sector, a postgraduate qualification in translation studies or interpreting is advisable. A primary degree in languages is desirable, though not essential.

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Foras na Gaeilge launched a new accreditation system specifically for editors in 2011 and it is hoped that an examination will take place on a regular basis.

Related jobs
Other opportunities related to this sector include editors, proofreaders, lexicographers and terminologists. A lexicographer compiles dictionaries and a terminologist studies terms or specialised words. Editors and proofreaders ensure that texts due for publication are well written, grammatically correct and accessible.

**Private sector**

The Irish language community represents a considerable potential market for goods and services. To exploit this potential, many companies have begun to target this market and to offer their services through the medium of Irish.

The census of the Republic of Ireland in 2011 recorded a 7.1 per cent increase in the number of people who stated they could speak Irish, accounting for 41.4 per cent of the population. In business terms, this statistic translates to 1.77 million potential customers in the Republic (with a further 167,490 in Northern Ireland) and as the current Irish-medium education sector continues to grow, this market will grow too. The opportunity to exploit the marketing potential of Irish has never been more important, both at home and abroad.

As with all sectors, career progression is based on performance. In the case of larger companies, in particular, the ability to make yourself stand out from the crowd is considered to be an important attribute.

In recent years the Irish language has attracted significant attention within business circles, with market leaders becoming aware of its properties as a marketing tool. Irish is an untapped asset for many businesses, and graduates with proficiency in the Irish language are an asset to employers.

### Resources
- Acmhainn.ie: Terminology facility for translators
- Focal.ie: National Terminology Database
- Foras na Gaeilge: The cross-border language promotional agency.
- Translators/Terms page with information about accreditation systems for translators and terminologists.
- Terminology Committee page
- Gaelport.com: The Irish language information portal
- Údarás na Gaeltachta: The Irish language community.
- The Irish Translators’ and Interpreters’ Association
- Proz.com: Directory of professional translation resources
- Gradireland.com: Directory of professional translation resources
- Gradireland: Graduate Careers in Languages Booklet available to download from gradireland.com/publications

### Areas of work
- Written, grammatically correct and accessible.
- Roxex
- Term inology
- Join the Irish Translators’ and Interpreters’ Association
- Sit the Foras na Gaeilge test
- The cross-border language promotional agency.
- Translators/Terms page with information about accreditation systems for translators and terminologists.
- Terminology Committee page
- Gaelport.com: The Irish language information portal
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- Proz.com: Directory of professional translation resources
- Gradireland.com: Directory of professional translation resources
- Gradireland: Graduate Careers in Languages Booklet available to download from gradireland.com/publications

### Useful tips
- Improve your language proficiency.
- Familiarise yourself with the translation software used in the industry, for example Trados, Wordfast and Deja Vu.
- Research the specialist dictionaries and online resources, eg: www.focal.ie available for the Irish language.
- Check out the website of the EU Directories for translation and for interpretation (see below).
- Upload your CV and samples of your work to www.proz.com: a translation resource for translators and agencies.
- Circulate your CV to relevant translation companies.
- Seek a relevant work placement.
- Obtain a qualification.
- Sit the Foras na Gaeilge test.
- Join the Irish Translators’ and Interpreters’ Association.
- Research and practice new terminology.
- Refresh your knowledge of current affairs (particularly important for interpreters).
Areas of work

Funding
Foras na Gaeilge awards funding to new businesses for bilingual signage and marketing material.

Resources
- Forbairt Feirste [www.forbairtfeiste.com](http://www.forbairtfeiste.com) for businesses located in Belfast
- Foras na Gaeilge [www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie) for cross-border language promotion agency
- Gaelport.com [www.gaelport.com](http://www.gaelport.com) for Irish language news website, also lists job vacancies and funding opportunities
- Gael-Taca [www.gael-taca.com](http://www.gael-taca.com) for businesses located in Cork City
- Gaelimh Le Gaeilge [www.gleg.ie](http://www.gleg.ie) for businesses located in Galway City
- Gníomhaigh Fo [www.gnomhaigheo.ie](http://www.gnomhaigheo.ie) for businesses located in Co. Mayo
- Udaráis na Gaeltachta [www.udaras.ie](http://www.udaras.ie) for Gaelic regional authority
- Social networks like LinkedIn have groups such as the Gníol le Gaeilge group where people interested in promoting business as Gaeilge can exchange ideas and network.

Irish language business awards
- Gradam Sheasaimh Uí Ógartaigh: Galway’s annual bilingual Business Award
- Loch Lao Business Awards: Forbairt Feirste’s prestigious awards ceremony recognises those who have shown innovation and commitment to their use of the Irish language as a business tool.
- Top 50 Business as Gaeilge Awards: These cross-border awards recognise companies, business leaders and organisations that use the Irish language as an integral part of their business.
- Gradam Phádraig Uí Chuanacháin: annual award presented by Gaeil Taca to Cork businesses every year
- Gradam Gró na nDéise: annual award recognising efforts of Waterford-based businesses in promoting the language
- Foras na Gaeilge also sponsor the All-Ireland Marketing Awards which highlight the work of marketing campaigns through Irish.

Culture: arts, heritage and language

The culture sector is a vibrant section of the Irish social and economic landscape. While some graduates work as arts practitioners, there are also opportunities for technical, educational and administrative staff. Good opportunities exist for Irish speaking actors and writers, especially in commissioned programmes for television.

Arts
There are opportunities for graduates in this sector within local authorities, community arts, event management, multimedia, galleries and self-employment. A qualification in an art or design discipline, or in art history, arts management or the performing arts, is a distinct advantage.

Foras na Gaeilge, Fleadh na Gaeilge and the Arts Councils, north and south, all support Irish language arts organisations through project funding and individual artists through bursaries and residencies.

Cultural centres in the north are also thriving, with Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Faich in Belfast and Cultúrlann Ul Chanáin in Derry being prime examples of these.

Festivals
Oireachtas na Gaeilge promotes traditional Irish arts and holds an annual festival every year to recognise singers, dancers, and performers in traditional arts. The organisation also organises awards and competitions for writers and media professionals. Other annual festivals include the Pan Celtic Festival, Sean-Nós Ceis Life, Merriman Summer and Winter Schools, Turas na bhFíilí and Strokstown International Poetry Festival. Pléaráca supports the development of traditional arts in the Connemara Gaeltacht.

Comhlíthas Ceolbóirdí Éireann also supports the Irish language, holding Irish language events as part of Fleadhs and throughout the year and offering support for Irish language traditional music events and training.

Drama
Irish language drama is constantly evolving and developing, with groups such as Fíbin, Asling Ghéar and Aisteoirí Búllín producing great Irish language plays.

TíAithne is a new Dublin-based professional Irish language production company specialising in Irish language plays. An Taibhdhearc, the Galway based national Irish language theatre, reopened its doors in 2012. Many Irish language actors performed in this theatre and it gives playwrights an opportunity to showcase their work and talent to an Irish speaking audience.

Radio dramas are also being broadcast on Raidió na Life, Raidió na Gaeltachta and RTÉ, many of which are supported by Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) scheme, Sound and Vision. Oireachtas na Gaeilge run annual literary competitions for Irish language writers, with a specific section for radio drama scripts.

Multinationals
Multinational companies welcome cultural diversity in their organisations and relish the opportunity to become part of the local community in their branches around the world. In Ireland, this may involve incorporating the Irish language into their marketing or publicity material, their marketing strategies or their corporate social responsibility programmes.

Entrepreneurs
There are plenty of opportunities for graduates to establish and grow their own businesses. If you have the ability to identify and exploit a niche in the market, this might be the choice for you.

Demand is growing for language-specific products that gain mass appeal such as Babbigbabby and Get the Focal. Government-funded organisations that support new business start-ups include Údarás na Gaeltachta, Foras na Gaeilge (language-based businesses only), Gael-Taca and Forbairt Feirste. Other locally-based organisations include Gaillimh le Gaeilge (Galway), Gníomhaigh Fo (Mayo), Gradam Gró na nDéise (Waterford).

Specialist IT companies
Some IT companies develop software and technologies addressing issues unique to Irish language users. A graduate with the right blend of technical skills and language fluency could find a rewarding career in this area, not only in Ireland, but also in minority bilingual communities around the world.

Top 50 Business as Gaeilge Awards
- Gaillimh le Gaeilge (Galway); Gníomhaigh Fo (Mayo); Údarás na Gaeltachta, Foras na Gaeilge (language-based businesses only), Gael-Taca and Forbairt Feirste.

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Language promotion and development

Language promotion officers are employed at local and national level, in public and not-for-profit organisations. Local authorities employ Irish language officers who collaborate with local arts and language organisations in their locality.

Irish language youth organisations, such as Feachtas, Ógras and Cumann na bhFiann, run youth clubs throughout the country. Community groups and cooperatives throughout the Gaeltacht are particularly involved in Irish language promotion and development.

Other organisations involved in this include the following:
- Gaeil Mhuintire Glaisnéis na hÉireann: promotes the Irish language.
- Comhghallachtaí Náisiúnta: organises many Irish language not-for-profit organisations.
- Foras na Gaeilge: the national, cross-border funding body for Irish language promotion and development and funds the employment of Irish language officers in local communities north and south.

Similarly, Pobal and Comhaltas Uladh promote the language and events in Northern Ireland. As the remit of many of the language-promotion organisations is quite broad, they employ people from a wide range of disciplines such as marketing, education, finance, event management, publishing and public relations.

Heritage

Job opportunities exist for curators, education staff, tour guides/managers and administrators in museums and heritage sites around the country.

Libraries and archives may have a high proportion of Irish language material in their collections, and librarians employed in the public library system must meet an Irish language requirement. Archives exist in a wide range of organisations including media, local authorities, educational organisations and private enterprises.

The area of cultural tourism also offers opportunities for Irish speakers, especially in the Gaeltacht, and local authorities often employ heritage officers. Many who work in the heritage sector have a relevant qualification in history, archaeology, library or archive studies, folklore, art history, museum management, education or design.

Resources

**General**

Foras na Gaeilge [www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie) The cross-border language promotional agency

Údarás na Gaeltachta [www.udaras.ie](http://www.udaras.ie) Gaeltacht regional authority

**Arts**

- Drianachtas na Gaeilge [www.antrioireachtas.ie](http://www.antrioireachtas.ie): Organises largest annual Irish language arts festival in autumn, as well as literary competitions
- Arts Council of Ireland [www.arts council.ie](http://www.arts council.ie)
- Arts Council of Northern Ireland [www.arts council-ni.org](http://www.arts council-ni.org)
- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland [www.bai.ie](http://www.bai.ie): Runs Broadcasting Funding Scheme (Sound & Vision II)
- Colm Cille [www.colmcille.net](http://www.colmcille.net): Promotes the use of the Gaelic languages in and between Ireland and Scotland
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann [www.comhaltas.ie](http://www.comhaltas.ie): Promoting Irish traditional music and culture
- Cultúrlann [www.culturlann.ie](http://www.culturlann.ie): Cultural centre located in Belfast
- Dúil [www.duíl.ie](http://www.duíl.ie): Irish language arts magazine
- Éalaín na Gaeltachta [www.ealain.ie](http://www.ealain.ie): Developing indigenous and contemporary arts in the Gaeltacht

**USEFUL TIPS**

- Get involved in the arts/language associations in college.
- Register for Gaelport newsletter.
- Volunteer with or attend arts or Irish language cultural events and festivals.
- Work as a guide or information worker at heritage sites during holiday periods.
- Take an interest in environmental conservation.
- Develop a track record of involvement in community and/or language activities.

**Language promotion**

- Cumann na bhFiann [www.colaistenabhfiann.ie](http://www.colaistenabhfiann.ie): The largest national Irish language youth organisation
- Conadhrád na Gaeilge [www.cnag.ie](http://www.cnag.ie): Promotes the Irish language throughout Ireland and around the world
- Gaelport [www.gaelport.com](http://www.gaelport.com): Comhdháil Naísíunta na Gaeilge’s language information portal
- Foras na Gaeilge: The cross-border language promotional agency
- Gaeil Mhuintire Glaisnéis na hÉireann: Irish language youth movement.
- Pobal [www.pobal.org](http://www.pobal.org): Umbrella organisation for the Irish Language community
- Feachtas [www.youth.ie/nyci/feachtas](http://www.youth.ie/nyci/feachtas): National Youth Council of Ireland
- gradireland.com/arts: Performing and creative arts section on gradireland.com

**Heritage**

- The Heritage Council [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)
- Society of Archivists (UK and Ireland) [www.archives.org.uk](http://www.archives.org.uk)
- Irish Museums Association [www.irishmuseums.org](http://www.irishmuseums.org)
- An All-Ireland body with a vacancy listing
### Public sector

The public sector encompasses the civil service, all central government departments, local authorities and publicly funded bodies. Job areas include both administrative and technical positions at varying grades, from entry level to senior management. Opportunities are also available in the following specialist areas:

#### Education: Republic of Ireland

Students and graduates looking to work in the area of education have a distinct advantage if they are fluent in Irish. Opportunities for Irish speakers are available from pre-school level to third level, throughout the country, north and south. Having a high standard of spoken Irish has become more important than ever, especially at secondary level, as the oral Irish Leaving Certificate exam now accounts for 40 per cent of the final grade. Jobs exist for Irish speakers in mainstream primary and secondary schools, in addition to Gaelscoileanna, Gaelcholáistí and schools located in Gaeltacht regions.

**Naíonraí**

There are over 270 Irish-medium nurseries, or naíonraí, located throughout Ireland, catering for children from three to five years of age. Jobs in this area range from naíonraí assistants and leaders to directors. There are also opportunities in the area of early education development.

*See Seán Ó hAdmhaill’s profile on page 25 to read more about the development of naíonraí.*

**Gaeilseolaíonna**

There is high demand for Irish-medium schooling at primary and secondary level, and new schools are being established and developed. This means that new teachers and administrators are being employed where fluency in Irish is a requirement. As of September 2012 there were 177 primary and 41 secondary Irish-medium schools in the Republic. In addition to this, there were 140 primary and 26 secondary Gaeltacht schools. These schools are constantly searching for suitably qualified graduates to fill vacancies, and a high level of written and spoken Irish is required. Secondary school teachers with fluent Irish also qualified to teach other subjects such as science, maths, home economics and accountancy are in demand.

**Third level**

There are many Irish-medium courses available in third level institutions. Students and graduates interested in researching or lecturing at third level should enquire about funding opportunities for PhD students, as well as opportunities to tutor undergraduates. There are numerous research opportunities in the area of Irish-medium education in particular.

*See pages 28–30 for information about postgraduate study.*

**Adult learning**

Adults living in Ireland and abroad who wish to improve their standard of Irish often attend Irish language classes offered in Irish language organisations, adult education centres and the third level sector. Vocational Educational Committees also provide a great service for adult learners of all levels of Irish throughout the country. Having the skills to teach adult learners opens up job possibilities for graduates and new teachers.

**Other employment opportunities in education**

Other jobs available in the area of education include curriculum development, inspectorate jobs and teaching resources development. There is a need for Irish language teaching resources, especially at secondary school level, and there are opportunities in this field for qualified teachers with a high level of Irish. Graduates with IT skills, teaching skills and creative ideas could assist in developing interactive resources for teachers. This type of work is available at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCQA), the Teaching Council, An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (CDEGB) and the Department of Education and Skills.

#### Education: Northern Ireland

As of September 2012, there were 45 naíonraí, 36 primary and five second level Gaelscoileanna in Northern Ireland. The demand for Irish-medium education in the north is constantly rising as more schools are being recognised as Gaelscoileanna. Students who recently graduated from the Irish-medium Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE – Second Level) run jointly by Queen’s University Belfast, the University of Ulster and St Mary’s University College, Belfast represent a new generation of Irish-speaking teachers in the north. St Mary’s University College, Belfast also offers an Irish-medium PGCE course for Irish-medium teaching (Primary Level).

*See pages 28–30 for information about postgraduate study.*

#### Education: overseas

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLLTA) Programme offers Irish-speaking graduates the opportunity to work at colleges and universities in the United States that offer Irish language classes. Eligibility criteria include fluent Irish, a primary degree, teaching experience and an interest in being a cultural ambassador for Ireland. Fulbright also provides opportunities for Irish-language academics at all levels to teach or conduct research in the USA. The Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) also has Irish language awards, annually providing scholarships for graduates to spend time teaching Irish in Canada. There are currently over 30 third level colleges and universities in the USA, in Canada (where there is a Gaeltacht), in Australia, in European countries and further afield, actively providing Irish language and Celtic Studies programmes within their own institutions. Some institutions throughout Britain, such as Coláiste na nGael in London, provide Irish language classes. This gives graduates opportunities to travel and teach Irish abroad.
**Areas of work**

**Health**
Competence in spoken Irish is an advantage in the healthcare sector as it can set graduates apart from other health professionals and allows them to create a niche, especially in the Gaeltacht. Health professionals who have direct contact with patients may be required to deliver services through the medium of Irish. Speech and language therapists, dentists, physiotherapists and other health professionals with Irish are in demand, in both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht regions, where Irish speakers may seek services through Irish. Acadamh na Niarnn is a society of the medical and allied professions who have a shared interest in the Irish language. The society meets on a regular basis to discuss and debate health issues through Irish, organise lectures through Irish and build a network of Irish speaking health workers throughout Ireland.

**Irish language development**
The implementation of the Official Languages Act has precipitated a growth in opportunities for competent bilingual people in jobs promoting or developing the Irish language. The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010–2030 also emphasises the importance of language development.

Irish language officers are employed north and south in local authorities, government departments and public bodies such as the ESB, the HSE and third level institutions. They are responsible for promoting the Irish language internally and overseeing the provision of the organisation’s services through Irish. They coordinate the translation of online and printed documents, and organise language classes and cultural events. It is important to be enthusiastic and passionate about the language for this job as it is an important role in the development of the language.

**Technical and professional services**
Work is contracted out by the public sector to individuals or organisations working within the private sector who can provide services as translators, web designers, IT consultants, lawyers, accountants, graphic designers etc. The provision of these services through Irish is important to the Irish language community. Barristers with Irish make up a significant proportion of the Bar Council and there are over 155 registered as having fluent or working Irish. A variety of jobs are available in the European Commission such as administrators, assistants, contract agents, interim staff and temporary agents. Graduates with fluent Irish are ideal candidates as Irish is now an official EU language. The European Commission also offers graduate training and traineeships.

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**Useful tips**

- Work as a youth leader or teacher with an Irish summer college.
- Participate in Irish language summer camps for children.
- Be aware of any training courses or classes which may help you develop your IT and creative skills.
- Participate in Irish language social events.
- Volunteer with an overseas education or development organization.
- Work on an education scheme in a disadvantaged area.
- Get involved in sports coaching.
- Get involved in your college’s Cumann Gaelach and arts societies.
- Secure a summer job in the Gaeltacht.
- Participate in accredited voluntary and extra-curricular programmes (civic engagement).

**Resources**

**General resources**
- An Chomhairle na Gaelscolaíochta [www.gaelscolaíochta.ie](http://www.gaelscolaíochta.ie) Promoting development of Irish-medium schooling
- Ireland Canada University Foundation [www.icauf.ie](http://www.icauf.ie) Providing a financial foundation for the development and support of the Trust Fund for Irish-Medium Education
- Forbairt Naonáin Teo [www.forbairt.ie](http://www.forbairt.ie) Supporting the promotion of Irish-medium early education and care for children
- gradireland.com [teaching](http://gradireland.com/teaching) Teaching and education section on gradireland.com

**Health**
- Acadamh na Niarnn [www.acadamhnaNiarnn.ie](http://www.acadamhnaNiarnn.ie) Society of the medical and allied professions who have a shared interest in the Irish language

**Education**
- An tAisladh [www.aisladh.ie](http://www.aisladh.ie) Providing educational materials for the Irish-medium sector of a quality and at a price similar to the equivalent materials available in English
- Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta [www.cogg.ie](http://www.cogg.ie) Resource for teaching of Irish in schools
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) [www.comhairle.org](http://www.comhairle.org) The representative body which aims to promote, facilitate and encourage Irish-medium education in Northern Ireland
- Comhair an Tuisceart [www.cnmg.ie](http://www.cnmg.ie) An all-island resource for Irish language teachers, providing training and information

**Teaching and education**
- EducationCareers.ie [www.educationcareers.ie](http://www.educationcareers.ie) Education careers search engine
- EducationPosts.ie [www.educationposts.com](http://www.educationposts.com) Education recruitment website
- Foras Pátriúchach [www.foras.ie](http://www.foras.ie) Patron of Irish medium schools in Ireland at both primary and secondary level
- The Fulbright Commission in Ireland [www.fulbright.ie](http://www.fulbright.ie)
- Gaelscolaíanna [www.gaelscolaíanna.ie](http://www.gaelscolaíanna.ie) Promotion and development of Irish-medium schooling
- Ireland Canada University Foundation [www.icuf.ie](http://www.icuf.ie) Providing a financial foundation for the development and support of the Trust Fund for Irish-Medium Education
- Forbairt Naonáin Teo [www.forbairt.ie](http://www.forbairt.ie) Supporting the promotion of Irish-medium early education and care for children
- gradireland.com [teaching](http://gradireland.com/teaching) Teaching and education section on gradireland.com
Graduate profiles

I previously worked as a legal researcher for the National Commission on Restorative Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and as also as a legal executive at Joyce & Co Solicitors. From 2011 to 2012, I worked as an in-house lawyer-linguist for the European Ombudsman in Strasbourg, France. Currently I am working with them as a freelance lawyer-linguist, and have also established my own legal proofreading business online.

Language proficiency

The work of a lawyer-linguist within the EU institutions is challenging and rewarding in equal measure. It requires the use of legal skills and linguistic skills simultaneously while proofreading, editing or translating legal documents. To work as a lawyer-linguist for the EU, a degree in law and a proficiency in at least three languages is required. Fortunately for me, Irish is an official language of the EU and therefore it counted as one of my three languages.

There are various types of lawyer-linguists within the EU institutions, such as lawyer-linguists who translate legal documents into their native language and those who proofread documents written by legal officers. In my role, I proofread English language legal documents and draft recommendations and proposals written by legal officers who originate from various EU countries.

Irish language skills

When I worked in-house at the European Ombudsman’s Office, I was privileged to work alongside highly intelligent, kind and inspiring colleagues who taught me a great deal about legal writing and editing, and the workings of the EU institutions. As well as proofreading legal documents written in English, I was occasionally asked to check the Irish translations of various documents to verify the accuracy of grammar and vocabulary. I relished such tasks as they gave me the opportunity to use my Irish language skills. Also, on two occasions, I recorded (in my finest Cork accent) the English I would highly recommend the role of lawyer-linguist to any publications, including the Annual Report 2010.

In English, I was occasionally asked to check the Irish translations of various documents to verify the accuracy of recommendations and proposals written by legal officers who originate from various EU countries.

My love for writing, talking to people and asking questions led me to choose journalism as a career. English and Irish were always my best subjects in school. I attended English-medium primary and secondary schools but with my parents’ encouragement, I spent time at a coláiste samhradh in Connemara. My Irish improved greatly each year as a result.

Moving to Connemara

After completing the Leaving Certificate, I decided to be adventurous and move to Connemara to study communications through Irish. I felt that having the ability to work through both English and Irish would increase my job prospects. As the last year in college approached, I applied for a job as a journalist with Foinsí, the Irish language newspaper distributed with the Irish Independent. I got the job and am now Foinsí’s News Editor. I am responsible for compiling the news list each week, and choosing the stories for the news pages in consultation with the editor. I write the majority of the news articles, speak on the radio about Foinsí’s stories and liaise with columnists and freelance journalists. Writing a weekly grammar blog for the website is also part of my job. There is great variety in this job and working through Irish is fantastic. There are strict deadlines so good time management skills are essential.

Highlights and advice

The highlight of my career so far was winning the Journalist of the Year Award at the Oireachtas na Gaeltachta Irish Language Media Awards in May 2012. It is important that an Irish language journalist has a very high standard of written Irish and I am constantly striving to improve my language skills. I have just completed my first year of a postgraduate diploma in Astriúcháin agus Éadarthóireacht, a part-time course which is provided online by NUI Maynooth.

My advice to graduates would be to get as much work experience as possible. Everything counts when it comes to your CV. Those interested in writing articles should contact the radio about Foinsí’s stories and liaise with columnists and freelance journalists. Writing a weekly grammar blog for the website is also part of my job. There is great variety in this job and working through Irish is fantastic. There are strict deadlines so good time management skills are essential.

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The highlight of my career so far was winning the Journalist of the Year Award at the Oireachtas na Gaeltachta Irish Language Media Awards in May 2012. It is important that an Irish language journalist has a very high standard of written Irish and I am constantly striving to improve my language skills. I have just completed my first year of a postgraduate diploma in Astriúcháin agus Éadarthóireacht, a part-time course which is provided online by NUI Maynooth.

My advice to graduates would be to get as much work experience as possible. Everything counts when it comes to your CV. Those interested in writing articles should contact the radio about Foinsí’s stories and liaise with columnists and freelance journalists. Writing a weekly grammar blog for the website is also part of my job. There is great variety in this job and working through Irish is fantastic. There are strict deadlines so good time management skills are essential.

My love for writing, talking to people and asking questions led me to choose journalism as a career. English and Irish were always my best subjects in school. I attended English-medium primary and secondary schools but with my parents’ encouragement, I spent time at a coláiste samhradh in Connemara. My Irish improved greatly each year as a result.

Moving to Connemara

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AN APP FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE
NAME Michael Thornhill
JOB Software Engineer
EMPLOYER Mathúi IT Solutions
EDUCATION Mechanical Engineering, University College Dublin (1994); PhD, Queen’s University Belfast (1998)
Winner of Cné Gaeilge na Bliana Award, 2010.

Originally from Shannonbridge in Co. Offaly, I went on to Queen's University in Belfast to pursue a PhD after my time at UCD. Following a time spent travelling in Australia, I returned to Ireland and took up a position as a software engineer with Propylon, an IT company based in Enniscrone, Síos, where I stayed for over six years. In 2005, I founded Mathúi Limited, with my brothers David and Kernil. This is an IT company which specialises in developing customised software for computers and mobile devices, web application development and hosting.

IT knowledge
I always had an interest in Irish culture and sporting events, including fleadh. My partner Louise is a native Irish speaker from Fintown in the Donegal Gaeltacht and we both noticed that there were often curious to learn more about the Irish language. This sparked an idea to use my IT knowledge to develop an app (which at that time was a relatively new phenomenon) that would help people interested in using the Irish language, and in turn help promote the language.

Since then the company has grown considerably, now employing eight staff. We have offices in Ballina and at the Digital Depot in Dublin. We have won contracts with some of the major telecoms companies, including Samsung – Mathúi developed the Gaelfón software which is available on their mobile phones in Ireland. We also work with other blue chip organisations including Nokia, Hutchison 3G, The Irish Times, Musgraves and Coca-Cola along with businesses across the country.

Irish language resources
An example of the most popular app launched by our company has been the ‘Get the Focal’ Irish Translator. It is a two way Irish English, English-Irish Translator with a database of over 3,000 words and terms which live in your pocket. It is quick and accurate, and can be used for completing that Irish assignment, reading articles as Gaeilge, or filling in a ‘cúpla focal’ here and there. Our success has also been acknowledged by those in the wider business community: in 2010 the company won the prestigious Cné Gaeilge na Bliana Award.

PASSIONATE ABOUT IRISH
NAME Síne Nic an Ailí
JOB Development and Office Executive
EMPLOYER Conradh na Gaeilge
EDUCATION BA, Irish Studies with Spanish ab initio, University of Limerick (2007)

I have always loved languages and the BA in Irish Studies in UL appealed to me because of the emphasis on the Irish language, history and culture – in addition to starting Spanish from scratch. Work placement was also central to the course and I managed to secure the first Irish-Language Officer in UL Students’ Union as a result. This was an excellent experience and really stood to me when applying for my current job with Conradh na Gaeilge, which I began shortly after leaving college. I couldn’t be happier doing what I do.

Job satisfaction
Not only does the work we do really challenge me, but there is an immense sense of satisfaction that goes with it. I’m lucky to be working with incredibly inspiring people who are also madly passionate about the Irish language. Because ‘development’ covers so many different areas of work, no two days are the same, either in or out of the office. I thrive on this variety. I could be presenting a radio programme on Raidió Rí-Rá one day, talking to students in summer colleges in the Gaeltacht about their language rights the next, hosting an Irish conversation circle for politicians in Leinster House the following day, and maybe setting up a website for a new lobbying campaign another day.

My job consists of a range of duties including:
• advertising for Conradh na Gaeilge’s Irish courses
• designing posters for various events from time to time
• organising An tSeirbhís Saor-Chomhairle Dlí Náisiúnta, our national free legal advice service for Irish speakers
• editing the organisation’s monthly newsletter
• managing the work experience students in head office.

It’s also up to me to keep our website and social media sites up to date and interesting. Dealing with the press is another part of my job and we release at least one press release a week on behalf of Conradh na Gaeilge.

Advice for graduates
My advice to all graduates would be to highlight the skills you learned during your work experience in your CV, in your LinkedIn profile and at every interview. Work experience can demonstrate that you are adaptable with practical skills. It’s useful to consider how you can apply what you learned to your new workplace.
Training and postgraduate courses

In recent years there has been an increase in supply and demand for courses in and through Irish.

Courses in and through Irish range from full time masters programmes to short-term evening or weekend courses. The focus has begun to shift from the more traditional Irish language courses based on literature and the arts, to courses offered through the medium of Irish in a wide variety of subjects, such as business, media and language planning. Most postgraduate courses in Irish require a high level of oral and written Irish, while others are aimed at those who wish to improve their language skills and abilities, to prepare them for the Irish language workplace. Third level institutions offer a wide variety of courses and there are many options for those who would like to try a day, weekend or short-term course.

In recent years, new MA and Postgraduate Diploma courses in media studies, language skills and language planning have been set up, as well as specialised diploma courses, for example the Diploma in Teaching Art through Irish. Some media and business courses include work experience and training opportunities, which can be very valuable for the future.

See Getting a job section on page 4–5.

Funding for courses

Funding to undertake these courses may be available from a variety of sources, including the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, from the university/college directly, and from employers. Postgraduate students who meet the qualifying conditions for the special rate of grant will be eligible to have their postgraduate tuition fees paid up to the maximum fee limit. See www.studentfinance.ie for further information.

The Irish Research Council has a number of postgraduate research scholarship schemes across the disciplines.

Some universities, such as Fiontar DCU and DIT, offer scholarships to students. Some also offer subsidies for Irish language campus accommodation schemes (TCD, UCD, UL, UCC and DIT).

Day/weekend training courses

There are many day, weekend and short-term Irish language courses available. The majority of these are aimed at learners who wish to improve their standard of written and spoken Irish.

Training courses available through Irish are offered by the following organisations:

• The Gréasán na Meán Skillnets Group (www.greasannamean.ie), based in the Connnemara Gaeltacht, provides training for those interested in the media industry. Past and present courses include documentary making, transmedia storytelling, make-up for TV presenters, and radio skills training.

• Irish Language Broadcast Fund (www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk). The ILBF offers several different training opportunities for Irish speakers working or aspiring to work in the independent production sector in Northern Ireland. They also offer a New Entrant Scheme, a Trainee Producer Scheme and a Skills Development Bursary to Irish speakers.

• Learning Waves Skillnet (www.learningwaves.ie), supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (www.bai.ie), occasionally provide Irish language training for radio.

• Europus (language consultancy company) (www.europus.ie) provide training for secretaries/administrators with Irish as their main language, to cater for increased demand for skilled administrators with Irish. Training is provided in both Irish and English languages, in office administration and in computer and administrative skills. No fees apply.

• Europus and the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology provide intensive training courses in Irish language translation of legal and state documentation in Connnemara during the months of July/August and September/October. No fees apply.

• Stillwater Communications (www.stillwater.ie) provides in-depth communications advice, media training, PR services and career coaching. They offer all training and services through Irish.

Resources

• studentfinance.ie www.studentfinance.ie Click on Postgraduate Students for postgraduate funding information.

• The Irish Research Council www.research.ie
Postgraduate courses and training schemes

A list of current courses in and through Irish.

The list of courses below includes Irish-medium full-time and part-time postgraduate courses, training schemes and general Irish-language courses available at the time of going to press. Other courses may have been developed since then. An up-to-date list of postgraduate courses is available at postgradireland.com.

Arts and heritage

Arts
- Higher Diploma in the Arts (Drama Studies) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI GALWAY
- MA (Drama Studies) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI GALWAY
- Diploma in Teaching through Irish (Art) – National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- Diploma in Irish Music Studies – NUI Galway
- MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance – University of Limerick

Heritage
- Certificate in Folklore Studies – School of Irish, St Angela’s, Sligo (validated by NUI Galway)
- Postgraduate Diploma/Higher Diploma in Irish Folklore – University College Dublin
- Higher Diploma in Léann Dúchais – University College Cork
- MA in Irish and Celtic Studies – Queen’s University Belfast

Business and ICT
- MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Business and IT (Thesis) – Fiontar DCU
- MSc in Information Technology – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI GALWAY

Education

Primary level teaching
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium – Primary) – St Mary’s University College
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Irish Medium – Primary) – Coláiste Mhuire, Marino
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Primary) – Froebel College
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Primary) – Mary Immaculate
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Primary) – St Patrick’s College
- Higher Diploma in Arts in Primary Education – Hibernia College (online)
- An Scrúdú le Aghaidh Cálraíochta sa Ghaeilge – Coláiste Mhuire Marino (essential course and qualification for primary teachers trained outside of the Republic of Ireland, with the exception of the PGCE, St Mary’s University College)

Post-primary level teaching
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium – Post-Primary) – Queen’s University Belfast, University of Ulster and St Mary’s University College
- Professional Diploma in Education (Irish Medium - Postgraduate) – NUI Galway

*Consolidation of courses in teacher training is envisaged. For up-to-date information on providers check postgradireland.com.

Education: other
- Certificate in Teaching Irish to Adults – Language Centre, NUI Maynooth
- Practical Irish for Primary School Teachers (online summer course) – Gaeltachtúir
- How to teach Irish effectively in the Classroom – Gaeltachtúir
- Irish language IT resources for the classroom – Gaeltachtúir
- Irish language course for Hibernia Applicants – Gaeltachtúir
- Courses for teachers studying for Scrúdú Cálraíochta na Gaeltge and other qualifications – Oideas Gael
- MA (Language Teaching – Irish) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in Second Language Learning & Teaching – Waterford Institute of Technology
- MPhil in Applied Linguistics – Trinity College Dublin

Language development
- MA in Irish Language Writing and Communication (Administration) – University College Dublin
- MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in Bilingual Practice (Thesis) – Fiontar DCU
- MA in Applied Irish – Dublin Institute of Technology/Gaeltachtúir
- MA (Language Planning) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in Applied Sociolinguistics – University of Limerick
- MA/Diploma in Language Studies – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway

Literature and language
- The following institutions offer a range of postgraduate courses in the more traditional areas of the Irish language such as poetry, prose, Early Irish, Middle Irish, folklife and history of the language.
  - Dublin City University
  - Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
  - NUI Galway
  - NUI Maynooth
  - Queen’s University Belfast
  - St Mary’s University College, Belfast
  - St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra
  - Trinity College Dublin
  - University College Cork
  - University College Dublin
  - University of Limerick
  - University of Ulster.

Media and communications
- Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Communications – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- Higher Diploma in TV Production – Waterford Institute of Technology/Nemeton
- MA in Film and Television Management and Policy – University of Ulster (scholarships for Irish speakers available from Irish Language Broadcast Fund)
- MA in Documentary Practice – University of Ulster (scholarships for Irish speakers available from Irish Language Broadcast Fund)
- MA in Irish-Medium Film and Script Production – Queen’s University, Belfast
- MA Irish Language Writing and Communication (Journalism) – University College Dublin
- MA Irish Language Writing and Communication (Editing and Copywriting) – University College Dublin
Translating and interpreting

Translation
- Diploma/MA in Irish Translation Studies – Queen’s University, Belfast
- Graduate Diploma/MA in Translation Studies – Dublin City University
- Higher Diploma (Translation Studies) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in Irish Language Writing and Communication (Translation) – University College Dublin
- MSc in Applied Irish and Translation – Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology/Europus
- MA (Translation Studies) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- Higher Diploma in Legal Translation – King’s Inns
- Higher Diploma in Lawyer-Linguistics and Legal Translation – King’s Inns
- MPhil Literary Translation, Trinity College Dublin

Interpreting
- MA Irish Language Writing and Communication (Interpreting) – University College Dublin
- MA in Conference Interpreting – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in interpreting – Queen’s University Belfast

General Irish Courses

Higher Education
- Diploma in Irish – Language Centre, NUI Maynooth
- The European Certificate in Irish – Language Centre, NUI Maynooth
- Diploma in Applied Irish – University College Dublin
- Diploma in Applied Irish – University College Cork
- Diploma in Irish – NUI Galway

Evening and weekend courses (from beginners to advanced)
Evening and weekend courses are available through the following organisations.
- Gaelchultúr www.gaelchultur.com
- Conrádha Ná Gaeilge cnag.ie
- Gaeil Linn www.gaeil-linn.ie
- Oideas Gael (Donegal) www.oideas-gael.com
- Oidhreacht Chorca Dhúibhne (West Kerry) www.oidhreacht.ie
- Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain (Galway) www.acadamh.ie
- An Droichead (Belfast) www.androichead.com
- Ionad Ulbh Eachach (Belfast) www.ionad.eu
- Vocational Education Schools and Colleges www.vec.ie

Resources
Links to universities can be found on postgradireland.com.
- postgradireland.com Postgraduate courses and advice
- Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge www.acadamh.ie Gaeltacht based & Irish medium university education
- Conrádha Ná Gaeilge (Gaelic League) www.cnag.ie Voluntary language promotion organisations
- Comhar www.comhar.ie Information on training for Irish teachers in 32 counties
- Fíontar DCU www.dcu.ie/fiontar Dublin City University’s interdisciplinary School: courses and research through the medium of Irish.
- Europus www.europus.ie Language consultancy company
- FÁS www.fas.ie National training and employment authority
- MA sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach dit.ie/gaeilgefheidhmeach Dublin Institute of Technology MA in Applied Irish
- Gaeil Linn www.gael-linn.ie Promotes Irish language and heritage.
- Gaelport www.gaelport.com/courses Comprehensive listings of Irish classes and training courses
- Irish Vocational Education Association www.ivea.ie
- The Honorable Society of Kings Inns www.kingsinsns.ie Law preparation course
- Nemeton www.nemeton.ie Television production course
- Northern Ireland Screen www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk National screen agency for Northern Ireland
- The Language Centre www.nuim.ie/language NUI Maynooth Language Centre
- Irish Language Requirement www.ilrweb.ie Details on the Scrúdú le hÁghaidh Cálíochta sa Ghaeilge teaching exam.
- Teg www.teg.ie Examinations for adult learners of Irish
- Údarás na Gaeltachta www.udaras.ie Gaeltacht regional authority