

Music industry

Chris Cusack



Job title:
Venue Manager and
Musician

Company:
BLOC, a live music
venue in Glasgow

Speaking another language enables this Venue Manager to secure acts from abroad and has opened up opportunities to tour Europe with his band.

What are your experiences with languages?

I began studying French at secondary school and most of the basics have stayed with me. This foundation has been built on through trips to France as a musician and bookings I've made here in Glasgow for French acts. I do regret not pursuing French further, to Higher, at school.

During an extended trip to Spain more than a decade ago, I began to be interested in Spanish. I enjoy the language and really engage with the culture so I have continued studying it via audio lessons on my iPad.

How do languages impact your current job?

Language skills are important for me on a professional level. I have to communicate with artists and managers from across the globe and my French and Spanish have been invaluable in booking acts.

They have also enabled my band to secure tour dates in Europe and helped us make many new friends. As a band, we find that making an effort in another language can be a great way to break the ice with people. It shows you are trying to engage with their culture and not just turning up assuming that everyone speaks English.

Chris' advice:

- Take every opportunity to talk to native speakers in their own language – this has been invaluable in developing my language skills.
- Audio lessons on iPads and other platforms are a great way to learn another language outside the classroom.
- It's never too late to learn a language. I regret not pursuing languages when I was younger, but I have made up for it now!

More information:

Chris' full job profile
bit.ly/sciltchriscusack

Other careers with languages
bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

Studying languages beyond school
www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool.aspx

A career in the music industry
www.ukmusic.org/skills-academy/

My World of Work
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/