

Business

Tony Meechan

**Job title:**

Director of Business Development

Company:

The Indigo Lighthouse Group

Qualifications:

Degree in Interpreting & Translating
(French & German)

Languages help this Business Development Director facilitate meetings and build relationships with clients spread across 11 countries.

What are your experiences with languages?

I studied French and German at school and continued these on to university. I know conversational Russian and Greek and can understand words and sentences in some Scandinavian languages.

I remember my first ever French class. It was the first subject that exposed me to the wider world and the truth that not everyone speaks English, and it inspired me – I didn't want to miss out on what the world had to offer!

How do languages impact your current job?

Languages have been a key driver in my career. If it weren't for languages, I wouldn't be in the role I am in today. I started out as an account manager for a German client, for which a high

level of language knowledge was essential, and now I have clients spread across 11 countries. I use languages on a daily basis! In business not everyone speaks English. Knowing the language of a client will build stronger relationships.

Tony's advice:

- Don't discount languages if you are thinking of a career in business. Languages can open doors to jobs, assist in meetings and help build relationships with clients.
- Spend time in the country of the language you are learning. Once you start operating in the other language it will build up your confidence.
- Once you have skills in one language you will find it easier to pick up other languages.

More information:

Tony's full job profile

bit.ly/scilttonymeechan

Other careers with languages

bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

Studying languages beyond school

www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool.aspx

A career in sales

www.prospects.ac.uk/sales_sector.htm

My World of Work

www.myworldofwork.co.uk/

The Indigo Lighthouse Group

www.indigolighthouse.com/home.html