

Museums

Campbell Price



Job title:
Curator for Egypt and Sudan

Company:
The Manchester Museum

Qualifications:
PhD in Egyptology

French and German are essential languages for scholarship and enable this Museum Curator to access a full spectrum of research and information.

When did you become interested in languages?

I wrote to an Egyptologist when I was 16 and asked what subjects I needed to study to follow a career in Egyptology. He encouraged me to study French and German.

I took part in a French exchange when I was 17 and being able to make myself understood in a language other than English was stimulating and made me want to speak and read the language more when I got home. I still study French and I've made a special effort to improve my German because I didn't study that as much at school. I've also learned colloquial Arabic from my Egyptian colleagues.

How do languages impact your current job?

At conferences, it is accepted that you communicate in English, but if you don't understand French and German you won't be able to access research and other literature. When I go to Egypt for archaeological field work, the people I work with sometimes have no English at all so the only way to communicate is to use Egyptian Arabic.

Campbell's advice:

- French and German are essential languages for scholarship.
- Volunteer in a museum while at school.
- Join an amateur society. I joined an amateur Egyptology Society and met people who gave me advice about where to study and what to expect.
- Read as much as you can!

More information:

Campbell's full job profile
bit.ly/sciltcampbellprice

Other careers with languages
bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

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

Career as a Museum or Art Gallery Curator
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/node/20296

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

The Manchester Museum
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/