Pharmaceuticals

Anne Morrison

Job title:
Senior Medical Writer

Company:
Novartis

Qualifications:
Degree in Pharmacy

Learning French and German has opened up a career in the pharmaceutical industry for this Medical Writer and has given her the credibility to work in a multi-lingual environment.

What are your experiences with learning languages?

I studied Higher French at school and when my husband and I decided to accept a job opportunity in France, it served as a good base from which I could improve my language skills. For many years we lived in Antibes in the south of France. We then decided to move to Alsace near the border with Germany and I started to learn German.

How do languages impact your current job?

We've now moved back to Scotland with our three young children and I currently work for a Swiss pharmaceutical company. I work from home in Scotland for most of the time, but I usually spend one week in four in the office in Switzerland.

I usually speak English at work, but also French as I have many French colleagues and my German comes in handy too. Having at least one additional language certainly helped me get this job as there are few people in the company who speak only one language and the company actively recruits people who can work in an international environment.

Anne's advice:

- Try your best to communicate – even if you're not always accurate.
- Have fun with the language and experiment with it. Don't be shy about making a mistake – people appreciate that you're a learner.
- Languages broaden your horizons. Be open to experiencing a new culture through friends, films, books, travel, etc.

More information:

Anne's full job profile
bit.ly/sciltannemorrison

Other careers with languages
bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

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

A career in the pharmaceutical industry
www.rpharms.com/about-pharmacy/careers-in-pharmacy.asp

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

Novartis
www.novartis.co.uk/