

Sport

Susan Young



Job title:
Outdoor Pursuits
Instructor

Company:
Freelance

Qualifications:
Degree in French and
Russian

Languages have opened up job opportunities for this Outdoor Pursuits Instructor and feature in her plans for the future.

What is your experience with languages?

I studied French at school and began Russian as a beginner at university. My dad encouraged me to pursue languages; he speaks fluent German and some French too. Studying languages at university gave me the opportunity to spend some time abroad. I studied for a semester in Voronezh in Russia and spent a semester in La Réunion, a French island in the Indian Ocean. When I finished university, I volunteered with a charity in Russia working with street kids and orphans.

How do languages impact your current job?

I spend the summer with groups of French visitors on walking holidays in Scotland. I am driver, walking guide, translator and anything else that is required, so I use my French on a daily basis! I hope to start doing the same with Russian visitors too. I spent a few winters working in ski resorts in the Alps where it's not essential to have languages but you get better jobs if you do.

I am currently doing an MSc in Translation. My plan is to get freelance translating work to fit around my current job, and if I need to reduce my outdoor work in the future as my body starts to give up, I can increase translating.

Susan's advice:

- Volunteering abroad can be a great way to improve your language skills and get some experience for your CV.
- Languages can help you get better jobs within sport and the tourist industry, especially if you want to work abroad.
- A passion and lots of experience in outdoor pursuits can open doors to jobs in this field, but it's a good idea to work towards qualifications to improve your employability.
- Don't put all your eggs in the one basket, and plan for the future! Languages are allowing me to plan for a career when I am not able to work in sport any more.

More information:

Susan's full job profile
bit.ly/sciltsusanyoung

Other careers with languages
bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

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

A career in sport
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/content/jobs-in-sport

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