

## **Going Global: Connecting Foreign Languages with Business Classroom Tasks more fully described**

Margaret Gonglewski, Ph.D.  
George Washington University  
Washington, D.C.

### **Careers: "Language skills wanted"**

#### **- Reading job ads:**

Working in pairs, students search job ads for jobs that require proficiency of any kind in the target language. Online services like monster.com allow you to include a language as a search term. Groups will report to the class on three potential jobs that strike them as interesting, giving job title, company name and type, location of job, language skill requirement. Each student should answer the question: Why would this job be a good/not so good fit for me?

#### **- Applying for a job:**

Learners at a more advanced level take the "Reading job ads" task described above one step further, actually preparing themselves for the process of applying for one of the jobs they identified as a good fit for them. (Note: When doing the initial task of reading job ads, these students should use resources in the target language, e.g., job ad services like monster.fr, or listings found in online or print magazines and newspapers.) This task would encompass writing a resume and a letter of application, possibly even preparing for a job interview, all in the manner appropriate to the target culture. All of these tasks offer opportunities to engage in discussions about concrete differences and similarities that encourage learners to contemplate cultural perspectives.

#### **- Using language skills on the job:**

To broaden students' understanding of how knowledge of a foreign language gives them clout in a job, teachers can invite business practitioners to speak with students about the importance of knowing the target language in their job. This can be set up as a panel with a focus on one or several business areas, depending on how much time and how many speakers are available.