Do employers value employees with language and culture skills?

In a survey of 2100 U.S. HR departments...



93% of respondents value employees who are able to work effectively with customers, clients, and businesses from a range of different countries and cultures.

Language Skills

66% of respondents reported identifying foreign language skills as part of the hiring process

41% of respondents reported a hiring preference for multilingual applicants

Culture Skills



34% of respondents reported a hiring preference for candidates with multicultural experience



22% of respondents reported a hiring preference for candidates with international experience

Industries with the greatest demand for foreign language ability

Government and Public Administration Information Services Educational Services Health Care Administrative Services





Customer Service Sales Vendor Management Marketing Skill sets sought in combination with foreign language ability

College majors sought in combination with foreign language ability

Education
Social Services
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and
Environmental Sciences



Data come from a 2014 survey of U.S. employers in the government, for-profit, and not-for-profit sectors, in 49 states and DC.

Some of these results are reported in: "The demand for multilingual human capital in the U.S. labor market," by Damari, Rivers, Brecht, Gardner, Pulupa, and Robinson (2017), published in Foreign Language Annals: http://tinyurl.com/FLAnnalsDemand.

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