



INDEPENDENT CONTRACT LINGUIST

An Inside Look

Knowledge of foreign languages and cultures is a significant asset to the FBI. Linguists provide valuable intelligence about criminal and terrorist activity that could potentially damage national security and put American lives at risk. Linguists' unique talents also help the FBI identify and prevent domestic and international terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, organized crime/drugs, white-collar crime, violent crimes and other offenses.

The FBI has independent contract linguist (ICL) opportunities in 56 field offices across the United States. An ICL is part of a diverse, dedicated team that keeps our country safe. As an independent contractor, an ICL is **not an FBI employee** and is not eligible to receive government benefits. An ICL **can apply to become a full-time language analyst employee as positions become available**.

Beyond Words — An ICL's Vital Role

- Translates written or audio materials, typically from a foreign language into English
- Interprets during interviews or visits from foreign dignitaries
- Provides linguistic and cultural expertise in support of various investigations
- Testifies in court on translations produced
- Assists special agents with multiple types of investigations
- Travel may be required to support cases in other field offices or abroad in legal attaché offices, based on operational need and qualifications

Eligibility Requirements



A U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old



Pass the FBI's background investigation, which includes a polygraph, by complying with the FBI Eligibility Guide to obtain a Top Secret clearance



Obtain qualifying scores on the FBI's Foreign Language Test Battery, which is composed of listening, reading, translation, and speaking tests



Provide services on-site at the local FBI field office at least 20 hours per week, depending on available work



Resided in the United States, or worked abroad for the U.S. government as a federal employee or a contractor, or were a dependent of someone in such service for three of the last five years



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