

The Growing Importance of Languages for Accountants

Ireland is home to some of the biggest multinational companies in the world. MNCs¹ operate on an international level. They are usually host to the top salaries and the greatest opportunities, which is why there has never been a better time to speak the same language as them: multilingual.

5 English is the predominant language of business, however it is not the only one. A recent Morgan McKinley Employment Monitor highlighted that employers are looking for part qualified and qualified accountants with a second European language, so knowing a language such as French, German or Spanish could increase your employability dramatically. The most recent report showed that the majority of hiring continues to be among multilingual
10 professionals in the accountancy sector.

According to Ed Heffernan from Barden, *“multinational companies have a higher demand and appetite for accountants than non-multinational companies”*. He comments on how difficult it can be to move from an SME² to a MNC for jobseekers, noting that without a second language, the transition can be further complicated. *“A significant proportion of
15 multinational companies in Dublin will employ a shared service centre structure, so they’ll be doing the accounting and finance for Europe Middle-East and Africa. The reality is these teams will be receiving invoices in French and German. People from other offices are more comfortable if they can speak to a French or German speaker at the end of the phone.”*

Learning a second language has never been more accessible, with numerous classes now
20 available across the country. There are also numerous options online and through books, CDs and DVDs. In an increasingly smaller world and with rising competitiveness amongst job seekers, there has never been a better time to give your career and CV that extra edge.

Abridged from www.cpaireland.ie/careers

¹ MNCs : Multinational Companies

² SME : Small or Medium Enterprise