



Why study?



Languages

How studying GCSE Languages could lead to a job at Sizewell C

What do languages have to do with the nuclear industry?

Think that studying a language wouldn't help your career in nuclear power? Think again! Nuclear power is a global industry, relying on global expertise. So you may find modern languages such as French, German or Spanish incredibly useful for working with international colleagues.

The UK's eight nuclear power stations are all operated by EDF, a French-owned company. Although English is spoken at every site, a grasp of French, German, Italian or Spanish may help in certain roles as you interact with international colleagues. Even better, a language GCSE could give you the confidence to work in the nuclear sector in other countries, letting you expand your experience and enjoy an even more varied career!

Careers at Sizewell C

Few jobs at Sizewell C are likely to insist on a language qualification other than English, but a modern language GCSE could be a massive benefit. EDF is French, with suppliers from across the world, and its project management and engineering teams are very diverse. Being fluent in a foreign language could be very helpful in a [project controls apprenticeship](#), where among other things you'd be learning how to review and interpret technical information from different sources and interacting with wider project management teams.

The same is true for engineering positions, such as a [digital engineer](#)¹ or an [engineering operative](#)² role. These may require close working with European or international colleagues to help simulate, build or maintain equipment.



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Career pathways using languages

- Apprenticeships are a common route into roles like being a digital engineer or engineering operative. Find out more on the government's [Apprenticeships website](#) or have a look for [Sizewell C apprenticeships](#).
- A degree may help you qualify or achieve more in other roles. And if you have a language, a degree that offers a year's industrial placement could even take you abroad - a great way to open up your opportunities! Your college or university should be able to help you find internship and placement opportunities.
- EDF is working with local schools and colleges, such as [East Coast College \(Lowestoft\)](#), [Suffolk New College](#) and [West Suffolk College](#), so have a look at their websites for pathway courses too.

Languages skills



Studying for a languages GCSE helps you develop your skills for **speaking** and **listening**. A second language can give you an outlet for **creativity**, especially if you end up working or living in a foreign country where it can help you express yourself. Language skills are hugely attractive to international employers, and could help you stand out and achieve more if your career takes you into a **leadership** role.

Did you know?

The nuclear power industry is truly global. More than 30 countries⁵ already have nuclear power stations. Between now and 2030, new reactors are planned in Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Russia, Slovakia, South Korea, Turkey, UAE, USA, and the UK⁶!

- <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/digital-engineering-technician-v1-0>
- <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/engineering-operative-v1-2>
- Foie gras is a food made from duck or goose liver. A faux pas is an embarrassing mistake - it literally means 'false step'.
- https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piscine_de_stockage_de_combustible_nucl%C3%A9aire
- <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/current-and-future-generation/nuclear-power-in-the-world-today.aspx>
- <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/current-and-future-generation/plans-for-new-reactors-worldwide.aspx>

All information correct at the time of going to print in December 2023.
Some of the images come from our sister project, Hinkley Point C, in Somerset.

Languages



Languages in action

Know your foie gras from your faux pas³?
Draw lines to match these phrases and languages!

1. It's Sarah's first day in a new job.

How might she introduce herself in each language?

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Sarah

Spanish

Hallo! Ich heie Sarah

French

iHola! Me llamo Sarah

German

2. Etienne loves tennis.

How does he tell his new colleagues?

Ich spiele Tennis

Italian

Je joue au tennis

French

Gioco a tennis

German

3. Patricia's manager wants to know what she likes for lunch. How might she answer?

A pranzo mi piace mangiare l'insalata

Italian

Para el almuerzo, como ensalada

French

À midi, j'aime manger une salade

Spanish

4. What's the French for 'nuclear reactor'?

- a) Deux chevaux
- b) Réacteur nucléaire
- c) Massif Central

5. When nuclear fuel has been used, it's stored in a spent fuel pool. Can you guess what this might be called in French?

- a) La piscine
- b) La piscine de stockage du combustible usagé⁴
- c) La Plage du Midi

Useful links

icanbea... Career ideas and opportunities in Norfolk and Suffolk

Young SZC: Connecting young people to careers and apprenticeships in the region

BBC Bitesize: What GCSEs should I take?

BBC: Jobs that use modern languages

Answers:
Q1. French, German, Spanish Q2. German, French, Italian Q3. Italian, Spanish, French Q4. b) Q5. b)

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