

THIS WEEK'S STAFF MEMBER CAREER HISTORY (21-27 Sept. 2020)

FOCUS ON: MISS MERCIER

What job did you want to do when you were in primary school? **Farmer**

A farmer is a person engaged in agriculture, raising living organisms (plants or animals) for food or raw materials. It is the name given to a person who owns or manages a farm.

What to expect if you want to become a farmer

- **Farmer salary:** Variable ranging from £20,000 to £50,000 per year
- **Farmer working hours:** Variable per week

What qualifications do you need to be a farmer?

- There are no set requirements. You'll need practical farming experience, gained by working on a farm. Most farm managers have a qualification in Agriculture, like a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a subject like Agriculture or Farm Business Management.

What job did you have in mind when you took your options? **Interpreter or Foreign News Correspondent**

Interpreter

An interpreter is a person specially trained to convert oral messages from one language to another. The average interpreter earns £15.60 per hour in the United Kingdom.

Qualifications are not necessary for interpreters, however, there are courses you can take that will benefit your career in the industry. For conference and consecutive interpreting, a degree in languages or a related field, and/or a postgraduate degree in interpreting are highly desirable.

Foreign News Correspondent

A foreign correspondent is a journalist who reports news from a country that is not their own. They report from countries outside of where their newspapers, radio or television networks are located. The national average salary for a Foreign Correspondent is £148,684 in United Kingdom.

The way to foreign correspondent jobs isn't often a clear career path, since a variety of background experience is just as important as a degree from journalism school. If you want to become a foreign correspondent, the most important things you can do are:

- **Get some local journalism experience.** Before you go out into the world to become a foreign correspondent, it's important that you first make sure you'd enjoy a journalism career. Work on your local newspaper, intern for a local television news outlet, or take a first job at a radio station. Aspiring journalists can also look into different journalism degrees.
- **Move to a new country.** While moving to a new country may seem like too big of a step early on, it's actually important to becoming a foreign correspondent. This is because all foreign correspondents need to demonstrate a history of living in other countries and because it's much easier to become a correspondent if you're already living elsewhere. Learn the language, meet people, understand the customs, familiarize yourself with the political climate and build a network of contacts.

- **Start freelancing.** Most foreign correspondents first start as freelancers (also called “stringers”), living in a foreign country and selling their stories to multiple news outlets on a per-article basis. Working as a freelance writer is a great way to gain work experience and prove that you have what it takes to do this full-time. You can also find freelance work as a “fixer,” or someone who helps arrange stories, usually by acting as a translator or guide.

Current job: Teacher of MFL

A teacher is a person who helps students to acquire knowledge, competence or virtue, especially a person who teaches in a school. As a newly qualified teacher, you'll begin on a salary of at least £24,373. If you want to be a languages teacher then naturally, having languages skills are essential and you must be fluent in both English and your target language. You'll also be expected to know about the culture and history.

You'll need to prove fluency in your language skills and most teachers do this by having a degree in their chosen language. You'll also need to get Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and you can do this by following a programme of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) at a university, school or training centre.

Qualifications required:

- At least a GCSE grade 4 or equivalent in English and maths. If you want to teach primary or early years you will also need a GCSE grade 4 or equivalent in a science subject.
- A degree (or equivalent) of a 2:2 or above. If you want to teach at secondary or post-compulsory level, your degree should be in, or relevant to, the subject you want to teach.

Previous jobs: Lots of teaching French in English speaking countries or English in France through tutoring; lectrice at the University of Cork; library assistant at my university in France in 2 different libraries; selling scratch cards door-to-door when I was in Eire to tie me over between jobs; tour guide in Eire with coach trips