

Day in the life profile

Language & Culture Specialist (Chinese)

TIME	DESCRIPTION
09:00	Armed with a coffee, I browse the latest intelligence reports and open source news on my subject. Being part-time, I check with colleagues to see if I've missed anything exciting from the previous day.
09:20	A couple of translations have landed on my desk for quality checking. As a senior linguist and reporter, I not only check them for language but also provide advice on what is considered good intelligence by our readers. To do this, I keep in regular contact with our customers, as requirements are constantly evolving.
11:00	My team holds a meeting to brainstorm ideas on our current project. Linguist input is crucial, as we are the closest to and most knowledgeable about our topics.
11:30	It's my turn to set our weekly training piece, so I browse for a suitably tricky article. We are always trying to not just maintain our level of language proficiency but also improve, not least because attaining a higher language skill level can open more opportunities for promotion.
12:15	Lunch! Time to get some fresh air in the central courtyard.
13:00	Work on some textual translation. The open plan office makes it easy to consult with fellow linguists over difficult sections. After skimming multiple pieces, I notice one that should be translated in full.
14:00	Attend an inter-department meeting with language analysts throughout the department to discuss ways of providing language support and training to other language specialists.
15:00	The item I have just translated has turned out to be time sensitive. I tip off the relevant intelligence customer so they can act on it in good time, and start to draft a formal report. I always find it satisfying following the translation and reporting process through from start to finish myself.
17:00	Time to finish work. One of the best things about the job: you can't take work home with you!