DREUCHDAN
GÀIDHHLIG
GAELIC
CAREERS
Cliog air iomhaigh agus cluinnidh sibh na thuirt an neach-agallaimh sin. Click an image to view each contributor’s testimony.
There are very few jobs or careers where you won’t need to communicate and use language. Language connects you to others and language can be poetry. Language can provide support for people and it can give you the answer. It can form a question or start a debate. Language can be music and decision maker. Language can inform and guide. And language can certainly work for you.

When it comes to career and job opportunities, language can be a very useful additional skill in the job market. The more languages you have, the better. In Scotland, Gaelic is a particularly useful career language as there are now a significant number of jobs where Gaelic is either necessary or judged to be useful.

As a high school pupil there are a number of learning paths open to you if you want to improve your Gaelic skills or learn the language, with courses for both learners and fluent speakers. You can even begin your journey through Gaelic education after you leave school, as there a number of courses available to learn Gaelic as an adult. If you have Gaelic, you have a chance.
Perhaps you would like to return to school as a teacher yourself! You could be a teacher in a Gaelic primary school, or in a secondary school, or you could teach another subject through the medium of Gaelic at secondary level. Gwen Culbertson was among the first to be educated through the medium of Gaelic in Inverness and she then took a degree through the medium of Gaelic before becoming a Gaelic teacher. She is now the Headteacher at Bun-sgoil Shlèite on Skye. Or maybe you would like to contribute to the efforts being made to revive the Gaelic language. That’s what Robyn Beaton does in her work with the Gaelic organisation Clì Gàidhlig in Inverness.
Chaidh mi fhin is mo pheathraichean a thogail ann an dachaigh dhà-chànanach san Eilean Dubh taobh a-muigh Inbhir Nis. Chaidh ar fhoghlamachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig ìre na bun-sgoile is árd-sgoile. Thog mi orm a Shlèite às dèidh dhomh an sgoil fhàgail gus ceum le urram a dhèanamh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ann an Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig agus às dèidh sin chaidh mi gu Olìghigh Shruath Chluaidh airson mo theisteanas teagaisg a dhèanamh.

Bha riamh úidh agam ann a bhith ag obair le clann le Gàidhlig, agus mi a’ tighinn bho dachaigh far an robh sinn a’ cluinntinn tòrr Gàidhlig agus bha an dithis phàrant againn nan luchd-teagaisg. Le bhith ag obair aig ire na bun-sgoile, tha an cothrom agam a h-uile seòrsa cuspair a theagasg: ceòl, dràma, Gàidhlig, ealain, eachdraidh, cruinn-eòlais is mar sin air adhart – cuspairean anns a bheil ùidh agam fhìn. ’S e an diofar as motha, gu bheil iad uile air an teagasg tron Ghàidhlig. Tha mi nis nam cheannard aig a’ chiaid bhun-sgoil Ghàidhlig le aonad Beurla ann an Alba, ach tha fhathast clas agam fhìn. Tha cothrom agam clann a bhrosnachadh a bhith misneachail mu ar cànan is cultar agus am brosnachadh a bhith sealltainn spèis dhì, an aon rud ‘s a fhuar a fhìn nuair a bha mi san sgoil. Agus rud a bhithinn an dòchas a sgaoileas mo sgoilearan-sa am measg chàirch.

Le bhith am measg chloinne, tha gach latha eadar-dhealaichte agus làn spòrs. Tha na goireasan teagasg is ionnsachaidh a tha rim faotainn air a dhol am meud gu mòr on a bha mi fhin san sgoil agus tha cothroman do thidsearan an seòrsa ghoireasan sin a chruthachadh is fhoillseachadh iad fhèin. Tha cuideachd cothroman ann dha luchd-teagasg na sgilean proifeasanta aca a leasachadh, no air àrdachadh dreuchd mar a rinn mi fhin. Tha saoghal teagasg na Gàidhlig, aig a h-uile ire bho ro-sgoil gu árd-sgoil agus às dèidh sin, lán chothroman inntinneach. Mholainn an dreuchd seo dha duine sam bith aig a bheil úidh sa leithid. Siuthadaibh, thig a theagasg!

Gwen Culbertson
Ceannard Bun-sgoil Shlèite

www.teagasg.com

TEAGASG AGUS BUÍDHNEAN GÀIDHLIB
Born and brought up in a bilingual household in the Black Isle outside Inverness, my sisters and I were some of the first pupils to be taught through the medium of Gaelic from primary to secondary. After leaving school I moved to Sleat and attended Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and completed my honours degree in Gaelic Language and Culture and then onto Strathclyde University for my post-graduate certificate in education.

We were brought up in a home full of Gaelic and education (both our parents were teachers) and as such I have always wanted to work with children while using Gaelic. Through teaching at the primary level I have the great privilege to teach every kind of subject, many of which I have an interest in myself: music, drama, Gaelic, art, history. The main difference being that they are all taught through the medium of Gaelic. I am now headteacher of the first Gaelic school with an English department in Scotland, Bun-sgoil Shlèite, whilst I still teach my own class. I have the opportunity to instil a respect and confidence in Gaelic, our language and culture; something I myself received from my teachers. And something I hope that my pupils may also share with others.

Being amongst children every day is great fun and no two days are the same. Teaching and learning resources for Gaelic are much improved from when I was in school, and there are many opportunities for teachers to develop, create and publish such resources. There are also many opportunities for Gaelic medium teachers to develop their own professional skills, and like me to apply for and achieve promoted posts. There are so many interesting and varied employment opportunities in Gaelic medium education and I would advocate that if you are even a little bit interested, go and find out more!

www.teagasg.com
Dh’èirich m’ùidh sa Ghàidhlig nuair a bha mi nam sgoilear àrd-sgoile aig Acadamaidh Allt a’ Mhuilinn ann an Inbhir Nis. Tha beagan Gàidhlig air taobh mo mhàthar ach cha deach mo thogail leis a’ chànan. Ás dèidh dhomh an sgoil fhàgail, agus crioch a chur air Gàidhlig (Luchd-Ionnsachaidh) aig Sàr Àrd Iree ann an S6, chuir mi bliadhna seachad aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air cùrsa do dhaoine nach eil buileach siùbhlach sa Ghàidhlig (An Cùrsa Comais). Mar thoradh air an deagh ionnsachadh a fhuair mi anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, chaidh cothrom obrach a thabhann dhomh aig Cli Gàidhlig nuair a thill mi a dh’Inbhir Nis.

Bidh Cli a’ tabhann sheirbhisean ’s taic do luchd-ionnsachaidh inbheach na Gàidhlig. Bidh iad a’ ruth chlasaichean air feadh na dùthcha agus a’ foilseachadh iris dhà-chhananach a h-uile ràithe. Thàinig mise dhan bhuidhinn a thòiseachadh air pròiseact ùr ris an canar LearnGaelic.net. ’S e làrach-lìn do dhuinge sam bith aig a bheil úidh ann an ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a th’ innte. Tha an obair a’ freagainn orm gu mòr oir tha tuigse mhath agam air feumaladh luchd-ionnsachaidh agus tha mi measail air teicneòlas. An luib na h-obrach a bhios mi a’ déanamh bho latha gu latha bidh mi a’ bruidhinn ri luchd-ionnsachaidh air feadh an t-saoghail a’ feuchainn ri fuasgladh a thòirt dhaibh air ceistean càinain; ag úrachadh chunntasan na làraich airson Facebook is Twitter; agus a’ frithealadh thachartasan fiosrachaidh. Tha m’obair a’ toirt an t-uabhas chothroman dhomh eadar siubhal gu àiteachan úra, dol gu cuirmeann sònraichte, agus ag ionnsachadh sgilean feumail.

Tha m’obair a’ còrdadh rium glan agus tha mi a’ faireachdann uabhasach fortanach gu bheil mo sgilean càinain air cothrom air leth a thòirt dhomh a bhith an às ann am pròiseact cho inntinneach ri LearnGaelic.net. Ged a tha luach thar toimhis ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, tha an siudheachadh agam sa a’ sealltainn nach fheum thu a bhith air do bhogadh anns a’ chànan o fhior thoiseach do bheatha airson dreuchd fhaighinn innte. Tha slighe eile ann a dh’ionnsaigh fileantais.

Tha mi fhathast nam oileanach leis an t-Sabhal Mhòr ’s mi a’ frithealadh chlasaichean air a’ fôn ceithir tursan san t-seachdain. Tha mi ‘n dòchas gum bi ceum agam ann an Gàidhlig ’s Leasachadh an ceann bliadhna eile. Ma tha úidh agad sa Ghàidhlig agus nam bu toil leat a bhith an às anns an ath-bheothachadh aice, mholainn obair aig buidheann Ghàidhlig dhut gun teagmh.
My interest in Gaelic began as a pupil at Millburn Academy in Inverness. There is a little Gaelic on my mother’s side of the family but I was not brought up with the language. Once I left school, after completing Advanced Higher Gaelic (Learners), I spent a year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on a course for people who are not quite fluent in Gaelic (‘An Cúrsa Comais’). As a result of the good education that I received in Skye, I was offered a job at Clì Gàidhlig when I returned to Inverness.

Clì offer services and support to adult Gaelic learners. They run classes throughout the country and publish a bi-lingual magazine four times a year. I came to the organisation to begin a new project called LearnGaelic.net. It is a website for anybody interested in learning Gaelic. The job was really suitable for me as I have a good understanding of learners’ needs and am also keen on technology. The duties I have on a day-to-day basis include: speaking to learners across the globe to try and answer their language questions; updating the site’s Facebook and Twitter accounts; and attending public information events. My job has given me a great deal of opportunities between travelling to new places; attending special events; and learning new skills.

I thoroughly enjoy my job and I feel very fortunate that my language skills have given me a great opportunity to be involved with such an interesting project as LearnGaelic.net. Although there is undoubtable value in Gaelic medium education, my situation demonstrates that you do not need to be immersed in the language from the start of your life to gain employment. There are other ways to achieve fluency.

I am still a student with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and attend classes on the phone four times a week. I hope to have a degree in Gaelic and Development within a year. If you are interested in Gaelic and would like to work within its revival, I would highly recommend a job at a Gaelic organisation.

www.cli.org.uk  www.learngaelic.net
If you would like to work with young people, you can also use your Gaelic. Gaelic singer Calum Alex MacMillan from Lewis has been working for a number of years with Fèisean nan Gàidheal promoting music and Gaelic among young people. Joanne McHale is an Early Years Officer with Bòrd na Gàidhlig where she works with children ages 0-3. Nothing is more satisfying than helping to get the next generation of young Gaels interested in Gaelic.
Tha a’ Ghàidhlig air a bhith na pàirt mòr dhe mo bheatha a-riamh. Chaidh mo thogail ann an dachaigh far an robh Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn gu làitheil ‘s bha a’ choimhearsnachd mun cuairt oirn uile cha mhòr a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig mar a’ chiad chànan.

Ged nach robh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ri fhaighinn sa bhun-sgoil agam aig an àm sin, bha na tidsearan gar brosnachadh gu bhith a’ cleachdadh Gàidhlig tro dhiofar chur-seachadan. ‘S e seinneadair a tha nam athair agus bhiodh esan gam chuideachadh a bhith ag ionnsachadh òrain ‘s bhithinn a’ dol còmhla ris gu cèilidhean air feadh an eilein. Bhon uair sin tha mi air mòran siubhail a dhèanamh a’ seinn is a’ pìobaireachd, an dà chuid leam fhin agus le còmhlain a’ tadhal air diofar cheàrnaidhean sònraichte den t-saoghal.

An dèidh dhomh an sgoil fhàgail chaidh mi gu Oilthigh Obar Dheathain far an d’fhuair mi Ceum (le urram) ann an Cunntasachd is Ionmhas. Ged a chòrd an cùrsa rium bha mi a’ miannachadh a bhith a’ cleachdadh mo chuid Gàidhlig nam obair ‘s bha mi fior thoilichte nuair a fhuair mi an cothrom sin a dhèanamh le Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Tha mi a-nis nam Manaidsear Leasachaidh a bhith a bhuidhinn ‘s tha sinn a’ cumaile taic ri na Fèisean iomaid a tha a’ tabhann cothrom do dhaoine òga a bhith ag ionnsachadh òrain, ceòl traidiseanta, Gàidhlig agus barrachd mu chultar nan Gàidheal. Am measg nam pròiseactan eile anns a bheil ann an sàs tha dràma Ghàidhlig, lomairt Ciùil Òigrìdh, Blas, Cèilidhean air Chuairt agus Fèisgoil – seirbheis cânain is chultarail. Tha Gàidhlig aig crìdhe na buidhne ‘s gach ni anns a bhail sin ann an sàs.

Tha e toirt toileachas mòr dhomh a bhith an sàs leis na h-ealain Ghàidhlig, a bhith cleachdadh nan sgilean agam airson cothroman a thoir do dhaoine òga. Tha a’ Ghàidhlig air iomadach cothrom a thoir dhomh agus iomadh doras fhosgladh nam bheatha.

www.feisean.org

Calum Ailig
Mac a’ Mhaoilein
Manaidsear Leasachaidh aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal

| ÒGRIDH |
Gaelic has always played an important role in my life. I was raised in a Gaelic speaking household and the surrounding community largely spoke Gaelic as a first language.

Though I didn’t attend Gaelic Medium Education, our teachers encouraged us to take part in various Gaelic related activities. My father is a singer and he encouraged me to learn songs and to sing at ceilidhs with him from a young age. Since then I have travelled and performed extensively as a solo artist and as a part of various groups.

After leaving school, I attended Aberdeen University where I gained an MA (hons) in Accountancy and Finance. Following this I was unsure which career path I wanted to follow, though I was sure that I wanted to use my Gaelic as much as possible. An opportunity opened up with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and I was fortunate to be appointed as a Gaelic Development officer in 2006 and I have since become the Development Manager for our organisation. Our main role is to support local Fèisean who organise opportunities for young people to learn Gaelic songs, traditional music and to help them to create and perform drama. Tha other projects we are involved with include: Gaelic drama, a Youth Music Initiative, the Blas Festival, Ceilidh Trails and Fèisgoil – a language and cultural service. Gaelic is at the heart of all we are involved with as an organisation.

I really enjoy being involved with the Gaelic arts, and that I can use my skills to give young people the chance to learn. Gaelic has given me many exciting and enjoyable opportunities.

www.feisean.org
Tha mi air a bhith ag obair aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig mar Neach-taic Thràth-bhliadhnaichean airson faisg air dà bhliadhna a-nis. Tha mi uabhasach fortanach gu bheil an obair seo a' toirt cothrom dhomh Gàidhlig a chleachdadh gu làitheil.

Mar phàirt den obair tha mi frithealadh bhuidhnean 0-3 air feadh Loch Abar agus Earra-Ghàidheal, tha tòrr siubhail ann ach tha tòrr spòrs ann cuideachd. Tha seo a’ toirt cothrom dhomh a bhith ag obair le clann òga agus pàranta ann an diofar sgìrean. A chionn ’s gu bheil a’ chlann ’s na buidhnean cho òg ’s ann tro sheinn, cluich, fealla-dhà, stòiridh ean is ealain a tha sinn a’ toirt a’ chànain dhaibh. Ged nach eil cuid aca fiù ’s a’ bruidhinn fhathast tha e cudromach cuimhneachadh dìreach cho sùbailte ’s a tha an eanchainn aca aig an aois seo, gu h-àraidh a thaobh a bhith ag ionnsachadh chànan.

Gun teagamh sam bith ’s e an rud as fheàrr mun obair a bhith cluinntinn clann òga a’ bruidhinn no a’ seinn Gàidhlig ged nach biodh ann ach facal no dhà. Tha e toirt misneachd dhut nuair a chi thu a’ chlann a’ falbh bho Pàrant is Pàiste no Cròileagan gu Sgoil-àraich is an uair sin gu foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.

Pàirt mòr den obair ’s e a bhith bruidhinn ri pàranta mu na buannachdan a th’ ann an dà-chànanas agus a’ toirt dhaibh misneachadh airson a’ chlann aca a’ chur gu foghlan Gàidhlig. Tha mi fhèin a’ faighinn tòrr toileachais a bhith ag obair sna tràth-ìrean agus tha mi air mothachadh dìreach cho cudromach ’s a tha buidhnean mar Pàrant is Pàiste a thaobh mar a tha a’ Ghàidhlig a’ fàs.

www.gaidhlig.org.uk

Joanne McHale
Neach-taic Thràth-bhliadhnaichean aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig
I have been working as an Early Years Officer for Bòrd na Gàidhlig for nearly 2 years now and I am very fortunate that the work gives me the opportunity to use Gaelic on a daily basis.

As part of my work I attend 0-3 groups in Lochaber & Argyll – lots of travelling but lots of fun too. This gives me an opportunity to work with children and parents in different areas. As the children are so young we introduce Gaelic through songs, play, games, stories and art. Although some of the children may not even be speaking yet, it’s important to remember just how much their minds can absorb at this age, especially with regards to language.

Without a doubt one of the best things about the job is hearing young children speaking or singing in Gaelic even if it’s only a few words. It makes it worthwhile when you see the children moving on from Parent & Toddler or Play Groups onto Gaelic Nursery and then Gaelic Education.

A big part of the work is to speak to parents about the benefits of bilingualism and to give them the courage to put their children into Gaelic Education. The job brings lots of enjoyment and I have come to realise just what an important part Early Years Groups play in the growth of Gaelic.
DRAMA AND THE MEDIA

DRÀMA AGUS NA MEADHANAN

Drama and the Media
If you are interested in drama, performing or the media, Gaelic can be very useful in those careers. After Kirsteen MacDonald’s Gaelic education in school and in college, she carved out a career in Gaelic media as a news reporter and weather presenter. She now presents the weather in both Gaelic and English for the BBC.

Arthur Donald from Tiree has been involved in Gaelic and English drama for more than 20 years, and Gaelic has provided him with many opportunities throughout his career.
’S ann tro mo sheanair, a rugadh agus a thogadh ann an Loch Ailleart, sgìre Mhùideirt, a fhuair mise eòlas an toiseach air a’ Ghàidhlig. Chaidh m’fhoghlamachadh, tron Ghàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil a’ Mheadhain agus Èrd-sgoil Allt a’ Mhuilinn ann an Inbhir Nis. Rinn mi an uair sin Ceum (le urram) ann an Cànan agus Cultar na Gàidhlig.

Fad ochd bliadhna a-nise, tha mi air a bhith ag obair aig a’ BhBC, gu ire mhòr an lùib obair naidheachdan, rud a bha gu mòr na amas dhomh bho bha mi gu math òg. Fhuair mi cuideachd, cothrom trèanaidh airson a bhith a’ líbhregeadh na h-aimsire – obair cho toinnte agus cho doirbh ’s a rinn mi a-riamh! Tha an obair sin cuideachd air iomadach cothrom a thoir dhomh ge-tà. An dà chuid a thaobh nan sgilean agam a leudachadh gu mòr, agus cuideachd a thaobh cothrom fhaighinn a bhith ag obair an lùib prògraman naidheachd a’ BhBC, leithid ‘An Là’ agus ‘Reporting Scotland’.

Chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh cho taingeil ’s a tha mi gun d’ fhuair mi fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Chan e a-mhàn gu bheil mi air cànan eile ionnsachadh. Tha mi air farsaingeachd de rudan a dhèanamh mu thràth tro mo bheatha obrach, ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla agus na h-uimhir eile de chothrom a bhith a-mhuigh an àite obrach. Chaidh mo thogail ann an dachaigh a bha gun Ghàidhlig sam bith; cha bu chois idir gun cuireadh a leithid sin bacadh air duine sam bith.

Kirsteen NicDhòmhnaill
Neach-naidheachd is Aithrisear-side

www.bbc.co.uk/alba
My Grandfather, who was born and brought up in the Loch Ailort area of Moidart, first drew my attention to Gaelic, being a fluent speaker. I was educated through the medium of Gaelic, from playgroup, primary school to high school in Inverness. After that, I went on to complete an honours degree in Gaelic Language and Culture.

For eight years now, I have been an employee of the BBC in Glasgow, working primarily in news, which I considered to be my dream job since I was a little girl. I also got the opportunity to train as a weather presenter – without a shadow of a doubt, the hardest and most difficult job I have ever done. It has been hugely rewarding though. I have been able to learn so many more skills. I have been working across a range of news programmes, including ‘An Là’ on BBC Alba and ‘Reporting Scotland’ on BBC 1.

I cannot put into words how lucky I feel to have been educated in Gaelic. Not only have I learned another language, I have also had so many opportunities to progress within the BBC in Gaelic and English. Numerous other opportunities have also come my way through being able to speak Gaelic. I was brought up in a non-Gaelic speaking household – don’t let that stop you from learning Gaelic as it didn’t stop me!
Chaidh mo thogail air Eilean Thiriodh, an t-àite as grianaich ann am Breatainn! Às dèidh dhomh an sgoil fhàgail, ghluais mi a Ghlaschu far an robh mi an sàs ann an tòrr bhuidhnean dràma. Thòisich mi a’ dol gu ‘Actors’ Lab’ ann an Glaschu agus ’s ann an sin a fhuair mi cothrom a dhol air an àrd-ùrlar.

Ann an 1992 chaidh mi a dh’Èirinn airson ionnsachadh mu bhith ag obair le pupaidean telebhisein, agus às dèidh an trèanaidh sin fhuar i mi cothrom fad tri seachdaine an a chur seachad ann an Lunnainn aig Bòth-obrach airson Jim Henson Creatures.

Bhon uair sin tha mi air a bhith ag obair ann an dràma agus craoladh, agus tòrr dhe na cothroman a tha mi air fhaighinn ’s ann tron Gàidhlig a fhuar i mi iad. Thòisich mi aig a’ BhBC mar a’ chiad phreasantair air a’ phrògram cloinne ‘Aileag’. An uair sin thill mi gu cleasaichd nuair a fhuar mi pàirt sa phrògram ‘Machair’ far an robh mi a’ cluich Coinneach airson sia bliadhna. Nuair a stàd ‘Machair’ chaidh mi an sàs ann an dràma Gàidhlig leis a’ chompanaidh Tosg agus ann an dràma Bheurla. Air sgàth nan sìgilean dràma agam thà mi air nochdadh ann an filmichean agus prògraman TBh eile thar nam bliadhnaichean an dà chuid ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla.

’S ann anns a’ Gàidhlig a tha mi airson a bhith ag obair agus a’ leasachadh dràma oir tha cultair air leth againn. Bho 2000 tha mi air a bhith cleasaichd agus stiùireadh deallbhan-cluiche gus an d’ fhuar mi obair mar Neach-dràma air Mhuinntireas aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ann an 2011. Tha sinn a’ deànamh tòrr phróiseactan an seo airson cleasaichean ùra a bhrosnachadh, daoine coltach ribh fhèin! Tha seo a’ còrdadh rium glan a bhith ann an suidheachadh cho brèagha agus ag obair le oileanaich cho comasach is misneachail.

Chanainn ri duine sam bith gu bheil tòrr chothroman ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig. Tha mise air a bhith uabhasach fortanach na mo bheatha a thaobh mo bheò-schlaint ann an dràma. Ma tha úidh agus spionnadh agad gheibh thu obair ann an dràma Gàidhlig: tha cothroman ann agus ’s e buannachd mhòr, mhòr a th’ ann a bhith dà-chànanach.

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk
I was brought up on the island of Tiree, the sunniest place in Britain! After I left school I went to Glasgow where I was involved in a number of drama groups. I started off going to the ‘Actors’ Lab’ in Glasgow and that’s where I got my first chance to appear on stage.

In 1992 I travelled to Ireland where I learned to work with puppets for television, because of that training I got the opportunity to attend a Jim Henson Creatures workshop in London.

Since then I have been working variously in drama and broadcasting, and many of the opportunities I have been given have come about through Gaelic. I started at the BBC as the first presenter on the children’s Gaelic radio show ‘Aileag’. I then returned to my first love, drama, as an actor in the Gaelic TV soap ‘Machair’ in which I played the character Kenneth for six years. When Machair came to an end I worked with the Gaelic drama company Tosg and in various English productions. My drama skills have allowed me to appear in various films and television programmes over the years in both Gaelic and English.

I’ve always wanted to work in and develop Gaelic drama as we have such a fantastic culture. I have performed in and directed various productions in Gaelic and in 2011 I began work as the Drama Artist in Residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. At SMO we are involved in a lot of projects aimed at encouraging new actors, people such as yourselves! I’m really enjoying working in such an inspiring setting and working with students who are so capable and confident.

I would say to anyone with an interest in working through Gaelic that there are plenty of opportunities. I have been very fortunate in being able to make a living from drama. If you are interested, have the skills and have enough drive, you’ll find work in Gaelic drama: there are opportunities and there are many benefits from being bi-lingual.

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk
If you are a creative person who is considering a career in the arts, Gaelic can be your medium and your muse. The Gaelic musician and singer Julie Fowlis has brought Gaelic music to people all over the world, and she has won international renown for her work and at the same time raised awareness of Gaelic. If you are interested in writing, you could do what Catriona Lexy Campbell did and put pen to paper right now.
Tha mi uabhasach fortnach gun deach mo thogail ann an dachaigh far an robh sinn a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig agus Beurla. Tha Gàidhlig aig mo mhàthair agus a h-uile duine san teaghlach aice, mar sin bhithinn a’ cluinninn Gàidhlig a h-uile latha nuair a bha mi a’ fás suas. Cha robh mi a’ coimhead air mar rud sònraichte aig an àm – cha do thuig mi gus an robh mi nas sine cho sònraichte ’s a tha a’ Ghàidhlig agus an cultar.

Ged nach robh iad gam bhrosnachadh san àrd-sgoil a bhith dèanamh Gàidhlig, nuair a chuir mi crìoch air ceum BA (le urram) ann an Ceòl ann an Glaschu, chuir mi romham bliadhna a chur seachad aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig gus a’ Ghàidhlig agam a leasachadh. ’S e sin an rud a b’ fheàrr a rinn mi riamh agus chuidich e mi le bhith faighinn obair làn-thide mar Olìghear Leasachaidh aig Fèis Rois ann an 2001, obair a bh’ agam airson tri bliadhna mus do thoisich mi air mo cheann fhéin mar neach-ciuil.

Bha seinn agus órain Ghàidhlig riamh a’ còrdadh rium agus tha sin a dho cheud a thoirt dhomh ann an ceòl – dho chd a tha air mo thoirt air feadh an t-saochail. Tha seinn Ghàidhlig a’ còrdadh ri tòrr dhaoine, chan eil e gu diofar dhé an càn an a tha’ aca no co às a tha iad. Tha mi air a bhith gile thòrrt seinn a bhith faighinn cothrom cluich ann an àiteachan eireadhail agus sònraichte an iomadach ceàrn dhen t-saochal. Àiteachan mar Tallà Consairt Mozart ann an Vienna agus aig tachartasan mar Fèis Glestonbury.

Thar nam bliadhnaichean tha mi air seinn le Graham Coxon bho Blur, chaidh mi air chuairt leis an actor Tim Robbins, dh’fhosgail mi consairt airson Bob Geldof, agus chum mi taic a’ seinn do sheinneadair a’ ainmeil à Ameireagaidh leithid James Taylor, Beth Nielsen Chapmen agus Mary Chapin Carpenter. Tha mi air seinn a’ prògram telebhisein ‘Later...with Jools Holland’ agus thadhall mi aig Hollywood nuair a bha mi nam pròhmh sheinneadair airson am taim ‘Brave’ aig Disney Pixar. Tha mi air ochdadh air aig an árd-ùrlar ann an diofar àiteachan aird na h-Eòrpa, Canada agus nan Stàitean Aonaichte – agus mi daonnan a’ seinn sa Ghàidhlig.

Tha an cànan agus an cultar air tòrr chothroman a thoirt dhomh, ach feumaidh mi aidealadh nach eil sion cho math ri bhith seinn aig an taigh sa chidsin cùmha ris an duine agam agus an dithis nigheanain againn. Bidh mi an-cômhnaidh a’ cuimhneadh cho fortnach agus a tha mi nuair a thig daoine thugam às dèidh consairt agus gun can iad, “tha thu cho fortnach, b’ fheàrr leamsa gun robh Gàidhlig agam”.

www.juliefowlis.com
I feel fortunate to have had an upbringing in a home where both Gaelic and English were spoken. My mother and all her family are native speakers, so Gaelic was always part of everyday life for us. I almost took it for granted when I was younger – I didn’t really appreciate until I was much older how special and unique the language and culture really are.

Although whilst at secondary school I was not encouraged to study or pursue Gaelic as a subject, following the completion of my BA (hons) Music degree in Glasgow, I decided to spend a year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to try and strengthen my Gaelic. It was the best decision I ever made and helped me to get my first full time job as Education Development Officer for Fèis Rois in 2001, a post which I held for three years before deciding to try making a living from playing music instead.

My love for Gaelic song has shaped a career for me in music – not just here in Scotland but worldwide. Gaelic singing has an appeal which transcends any language or social barrier, and I have been lucky enough to play around the world in stunning venues like the Mozart Concert Hall in Vienna and at world famous events like the Glastonbury Festival.

Over the years, I have sung with Graham Coxon from Blur, toured with actor Tim Robbins, opened concerts for Bob Geldof, and sung backing vocals for famous American singer songwriters like James Taylor, Beth Nielsen Chapmen and Mary Chapin Carpenter. I’ve performed on the ‘Later...with Jools Holland’ show and even visited Hollywood when I became the principal singing voice on Disney Pixar’s film ‘Brave’. I have stepped onto stages across Europe, Canada and the United States – and always singing in Gaelic.

The language and culture have given me so many opportunities, but I must admit to being happiest when singing at home in the kitchen with my husband and two daughters. I am always reminded how fortunate I am when people come up to me after concerts to say – “you are so lucky, I wish I could speak Gaelic”.

www.juliefowlis.com
Thòisich mi a’ sgrìobhadh sgeulachdan nuair a bha mi gu math òg às dèidh dhomh bhith coimhead m’ athair ag obair aig an deasg air na leabhraichean aige fhèin. Cha robh cáil na bu thlachd dhomh na deagh sgeulachd agus tha mi fhathast a’ faireachdainn mar sin an-diugh.

Bha mi seachd-deug nuair a thòisich mi a’ sgrìobhadh sa Ghàidhlig a-mhàin. Bha e faireachdainn nàdarrach agus freagarrach dhomh agus, gu fortanach, bha daoine gu léor a bha deònach mo chuideachadh. Gach turas a sgrìobhann sgeulachd bhithinn a’ sireadh beachd bho eòlaiche, leithid mo phàrantan no tidsear, gus mo chuideachadh a’ faicinn mar a b’ urrainn dhomh a dhèanamh a dhèanaich na b’ fheàrr.

Chuir mi beachd airson a’ chìad nobhail agam gu Acair agus cuideachd iad mi gus a leudachadh agus, mu dheireadh, a cur an clò. Fhuir mi cuideachd tòrr taic bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean le bhith cur a’ chìad nobhail agam airson inbhich – Samhradhnean Diomhair – an clò.

Anns an eadar-ama, bha mi a’ sgrìobhadh bàrdachd airson tachartasan agus farpaisean, agus ag obair air a bhith ag ionnsachadh mar a sgrìobhas tu dealbhan-cluiche agus sgrìobtaichean telebhisein tro chursaichean goirid agus greisean gniomhachais. Tha mi an-còmhnaidh airson a bhith ag ionnsachadh sgilean ùr’ agus gan leudachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha mi a-nis ag obair mar Sgrìobhadair air Mhuinntireas aig SMO agus tha mi fhathast air mo bheò-ghlacadh le sgrìobhadh cruthachail. Ma tha thu airson a bhith nad sgrìobhadair Gàidhlig, mholainn dhut bhith sgrìobhadh cho tric sa ghabhas agus iarr comhairle bho chuideigin nas eòlaiche agus anns a bheil earbs agad an fhìrinn innshe dhut mu d’ obair. Lorg cothroman airson a bhith sealtainn do sgrìobhadh gu poblach, leithid farpaisean agus leughaidh, agus na bi feagalach bhith cur d’ obair gu luchd-foilleachaidh – tha iad gu math taiceil agus deònach do chuideachadh, ma tha do mhiann làdir. Ach an rud às cudromaiche ’s e gu bheil e a’ còrdadh riut. Ma tha sin agad, ’s e dreuchd air leth a th’ ann a bhith nad sgrìobhadair.

www.gaelicbooks.org  www.acairbooks.com
I started writing stories when I was quite young after watching my father at his desk, writing his own books. I liked nothing better than a good story and I still feel the same way.

I was seventeen when I started writing exclusively in Gaelic. It felt natural and right to me and, luckily, there were plenty of people who were willing to help. Each time I wrote a story I would seek the advice of someone more experienced, like my parents or a teacher, to show me how to make it better.

I sent a brief for my first novel to Acair and they helped me to develop it and, eventually, to publish it. I also received a lot of support from the Gaelic Books Council who published my first novel for adults – Samhradhain Diomhair.

In the meantime, I was writing poetry for specific events and competitions, and learning how to write plays and television scripts via short courses and work experience. I’m always looking to learn new skills and to develop them through the Gaelic language.

I now work as the Writer in Residence at SMO and I’m still really excited by creative writing. If you want to be a Gaelic writer, I would suggest that you write as often as possible. Seek advice from someone more experienced that you trust to be honest with you about your work. Look for opportunities to get your work out in public, like competitions and readings, and don’t be afraid to send your work to publishers – they are pretty supportive and willing to help, if you’re willing to work hard. But the most important thing is that you enjoy it. If you have that, then it’s a great job being a writer.
‘S dòcha gun còrdadh e riut a bhith ag obair an lùib poilitigs no deamocrasaidh? Dh’ionnsaich an Dr Alasdair Allan BPA – a tha na Mhinistear airson Ionnsachaidh, Saidheans agus Cànanan na h-Alba ann an Riaghaltas na h-Alba – a’ Ghàidhlig nuair a bha e na inbheach agus tha e a-nis a’ riodachadh nan Eilean Siar ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Alba agus tha an t-ualach air airson na Gàidhlig san Riaghaltas. Thug a’ Ghàidhlig cothrom do dh’Alasdair MacCaluim a bhith ag obair aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba mar Oifigeair Leasachaidh Gàidhlig agus e a’ cuideachadh le bhith brosnachadh Gàidhlig ann an obair na Pàrlamaid.

Perhaps you are interested in politics and democracy? Dr Alasdair Allan MSP – who is the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages in the Scottish Government – learned Gaelic as an adult and he now represents the Western Isles in the Scottish Parliament and is the Minister who is responsible for Gaelic. Gaelic gave Alasdair MacCaluim the opportunity to work in the Scottish Parliament as a Gaelic Development Officer where he helps to promote Gaelic in the work of the Parliament.
Nuair a bha mise san àrd-sgoil, bha sinn a’ taghadh chuspairean aig deireadh na dàrna bliadhna. Tharraing mise colbh eile a-steach dhan fhoirm agus sgriobh mi “Gàidhlig” air. Ach gu mì-fhortanach cha d’fuair mi an cothrom Gàidhlig ionnsachadh mun do thòisich mi san oilthigh.

A-nis ge-tà, mar Bhall Pàrlamaid na h-Alba airson nan Eileanan an Iar, tha a’ Ghàidhlig glè fheumail anns an obair agam. Bidh cuid den luchd-obrach agam a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig gu tric anns an oifis, agus bidh mi a’ dèanamh agallamhan air Radio nan Gàidheal agus BBC ALBA ann an Gàidhlig. A bharrachd air sin, bidh mi a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig cho luath ’s a chì mi gu bheil daoine dèonach sin a dhèanamh anns a’ choimhearsnachd. Tha an obair agam a’ ciallachadh gum bi mi a’ tadhail air tòrr dhaoine, agus bidh daoine a tighinn thugam leis na trioblaidean aca. Tha a’ mhòr chuid de na còmhraidhean sin anns a’ Ghàidhlig.

Cuideachd, tha dreuchd eile agam mar Mhinistear le uallach airson na Gàidhlig fhèin, agus bhiodh e doirbh dha-irisbh an obair sin a dhèanamh gun Ghàidhlig. Ged nach fheum teisteanasan sònraichte a bhith agad airson a bhith nad Bhall Pàrlamaid, cha bhithean-sa fiù ’s air smaoineachadh air an dreuchd seo a dhèanamh gun Ghàidhlig.

Dr Alasdair Allan BPA
Ministear airson Ionnsachaidh, Saidheans agus Cànanan na h-Alba

www.scotland.gov.uk
When I was at secondary school in Selkirk, we were choosing our subjects at the end of second year. I remember drawing an extra column in the form and writing “Gaelic” in it. But I didn’t get a chance to start learning Gaelic until I was at university.

Now, however, as Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Western Isles, Gaelic is really useful to me in my work. A number of my staff speak Gaelic in the office, and I regularly do interviews on Radio nan Gàidheal or BBC ALBA in the language. I also speak Gaelic in the community whenever given the chance and the other person is willing use the language. My work means that I visit lots of people, and lots of people come to me with issues they want me to deal with. Much of that work is also conducted in Gaelic.

In addition, I also have another role as Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, and it would be very difficult to do that job without Gaelic. Although you don’t actually need any qualifications to become an MSP, personally I wouldn’t even consider doing this job without Gaelic.

www.scotland.gov.uk
Chaidh mo thogail ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath agus bha ùidh agam riamh sa Ghàidhlig oir bha mi air mo chuirteachadh le ainmean-àite mar An t-Àrd Ruigh, Comar nan Allt, Cair Ceann Tulaich is eile. Sheall seo dhomh gun robh Gàidhlig cudromach dhan sgire agam fhèin agus air feadh na h-Alba.

Cha robh Gàidhlig agam a-staigh idir agus chan eil ceangal agam ris a’ Ghàidhealtachd. Rinn mi Gàidhlig mar chuspair ann an Oilthigh Ghlaschu fad bliadhna is an uair sin chaidh mi gu Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Às dèidh dhomh PhD a dhèanamh ann an Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann mu fheumalachdan luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, fhuaire mi obair ann an leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Tha e còrdadh rium glan a bhith a’ déanamh obair leis an t-sluagh a tha cuideachd a’ cur air adhart na cânain.

Tha mi ag obair ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Alba mar Oifigear Leasachaidh Gàidhlig. ‘S e a’ phríomh obair a th’ agam a bhith a’ toirt seachad seirbheisean don phoball mar làrach-lìn Ghàidhlig na Pàrlamaid, a bhith a’ brosnachadh luchd na Gàidhlig gus pàirt a ghabhail ann an obair na Pàrlamaid agus a’ cur plana Gàidhlig na Pàrlamaid an gnìomh. ’S e obair fior mhath a th’ ann agus cha b’ urrainn dhomh a dhèanamh mura robh a’ Ghàidhlig agam.

Tha tòrr chothroman obrach ann an lùib leasachadh cànan, eadar-theangachadh is eile agus mas urrainn dhômhsa Gàidhlig ionnsachadh, is urrainn duine sam bith!
I was brought up in North Lanarkshire and I was always interested in Gaelic as I was surrounded by place-names in the language like An t-Àrd Ruigh (Airdrie), Comar nan Allt (Cumbernauld), Cair Ceann Tulaich (Kirkintilloch) and others. This showed me that Gaelic was important to my local area and throughout Scotland.

I didn’t have Gaelic at home and I don’t have any connections with the Highlands. I studied Gaelic as a subject at Glasgow University for a year and then went to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. After doing a PhD in Edinburgh University about the needs of Gaelic learners, I began working in Gaelic development. I love working with people and also promoting the language.

I work at the Scottish Parliament as Gaelic Development Officer. My main tasks are to deliver services to the public such as the Parliament’s Gaelic web-pages, to encourage Gaelic speakers to take part in the work of the Parliament and to implement our Gaelic language plan. It is rewarding work and I just couldn’t do it unless I spoke Gaelic.

There are many job opportunities in language development, translation and other fields and if I can learn Gaelic anybody can!
A’ FRITHEALADH AIR A’ MHÒR-SHLUAIGH
HELPING PEOPLE
Ged nach fheum i a bhith agad, faodaidh a’ Ghàidhlig a bhith na chuideachadh nuair a tha thusa a’ cuideachadh dhaoine eile. Tha Sarah May NicIolInnein na nurs san Eilean Sgitheanach agus bidh cothrom aice Gàidhlig a chleachadh nuair a tha i a’ toirt cùram do dhaoine. Agus tha an aon rud fìor mu Dhòmhnall Moireasdan na obair agus e na poileasman aig Poileas na h-Alba.

Although you don’t need to have Gaelic to help other people, there are times when it can be useful in occupations where you are helping other people. Sarah May MacLennan is a nurse on Skye and there are times when she uses Gaelic when dealing with people. The same is also true of policeman Donald Morrison in his work with Police Scotland.
Chaidh mo thogail ann an Cille Pheadair ann an Uibhist a Deas, ’s mar sin bha Gàidhlig agam a’ fàs suas. Chaidh mi gu Sabhal Mòr Ostaig nuair a dh’fhàg mi an sgoil agus as dèidh sin thàinig mi gu co-dhùnadh gu robh mi airson a bhith nam nurs agus tha mi a-nis ag obair san dreuchd sin ann an Ospadal an Àth Leathainn san Eilean Sgitheanach.

Mar as trice tha mi ag obair anns an ‘theatre’ ach cuideachd ag obair air na ‘wards’ fhèin agus ann an A&E – deagh mheasgachadh. Tha Gàidhlig cudromach san obair làitheil agam gu h-àraid ma tha daoine tinn a’ tighinn a-staigh aig a bheil Gàidhlig agus iad nas comhfhàirt a’ Ghàidhlig a bhruidhinn an a’te Beurla. Tha mi a’ smaoineachadh gu bheil e a’ toirt togal do daoine ma tha iad ann an a’te mar ospadal far nach aithne dhaibh daoine gu bheil cuideigin ann a bhruidhneas a’ chaid cànna aca fhèin. Uaireannan ma tha daoine nas sine air a dhol trulaidh’s e Gàidhlig a bhruidhneas iad. Tha mise a’ smaoineachadh leis gu bheil Gàidhlig agam gu bheil mi a’ faighinn rud beag a bharrachd a-mach mu dheidhinn daoine aig a bheil i, agus tha sin daonnan cudromach ann a bith a’ mòladh leigheasan dhaibh.
I was brought up in Kilpheder in South Uist, and so I spoke Gaelic when I was growing up. I went to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig when I left school and after that I decided that I wanted to train to be a nurse, and I now work on Skye in the hospital in Broadford.

I usually work in the theatre, but I also work on the wards and in A&E – a good mix. Gaelic can be important in my work, especially when we have patients who are perhaps more comfortable speaking Gaelic than English. It can encourage and reassure people, if they are in a hospital setting where they perhaps don’t know the staff and someone can speak to them in their first language. Sometimes when you have older people who are confused, they tend to speak in Gaelic. I think that I am able to find out a bit more about people sometimes because I have Gaelic, and that is always very important when it comes to diagnosing and treating illnesses.
Nuair a chuir mi a-steach airson am poileas bha mi a’ miannachadh obair a bha eadar-dhealaichte nach robh coltach ri obair àbhaiseach a gheibh thu 9-5, agus bha mi airson obair a dhèanamh far an robh mi a’ dèanamh seirbhise do dhaoine agus sin an dearbh rud a tha thu a’ déanamh sa phoileas.

Chanainn ri duine sam bith a tha airson a bhith nam poileas, gum feum thu a bhith math le daoine. Tha teisteanasan agus comasan eile cudromach, ach ’s e an rud as cudromaiche gu bheil thu math am measg dhaoine eile agus tha thu math air déiligeadh riutha. Chanainn-sa cuideachd, faigh obair eile às dèidh dhut tighinn a-mach às an gsoil no a’ cholaiste. Faigh obair eile airson dhà no thri bhliadhnaich agus faigh eòlas air a bhith am measg dhaoine eile. Feumaidh tu a bhith math le daoine eile, oir sin a tha thu a’ déanamh fad an latha, tha thu a’ déiligeadh ri daoine eile agus tric bidh thu a’ déiligeadh ri daoine ann an trioblaid agus feumaidh co-fhaireachadh a bhith agad ri daoine eile.

Bidh thu a’ déiligeadh ri droch thuibaisteann agus tòrr rudan a tha mi-nàdarrach nach bi daoine san àbhaist a’ falcinn.

Rud eile a dh’fhheumas tu a bhith math air, agus cha bhi daoine a’ smaoineachadh air seo ’s mathaid, feumaidh tu a bhith math air sgriobhadh agus foirmichean oir tha tòrr dhe sin san obair. Ma chuireas tu cuideigin fo chasaid no ma tha tuistaist no rudeadh eile an, tha agad ri tòrr foirmichean a lìonadh a-steach. Tha an taobh sin ann cuideachd.

Rud eile a dh’fhheumas tu a bhith math air, agus cha bhi daoine a’ smaoineachadh air seo ’s mathaid, feumaidh tu a bhith math air sgriobhadh agus foirmichean oir tha tòrr dhe sin san obair. Ma chuireas tu cuideigin fo chasaid no ma tha tuistaist no rudeadh eile an, tha agad ri tòrr foirmichean a lìonadh a-steach. Tha an taobh sin ann cuideachd.

Tha aon chomas agamsa nach eil aig mòran de phoileis, agus ’s e sin a’ Ghàidhlig. Nuair a bha mi ag obair ann an cùid a dh’aitheachan cha robh mi ga bruidhinn mòran, ach bhon a thàinig mi dhan Chaol bidh daoine airson bruidhinn rium sa Ghàidhlig. Bha mi ann an taigh o chionn seachdain agus nuair a cha dha theachadh a bha sean mo ghuth, dh’aitheachd e cò a’ bha mi agus òthios e a’ bruidhinn rium sa Ghàidhlig. Gheibh thu sin uaireannan nuair a tha daoine nas cofhurtail a’ bruidhinn rium sa Ghàidhlig seach gur i’ a’ chian chànan aca. Cuideachd bidh mi a’ faighinn cothroman air sgàth ’s gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig agam. Tha mi gu bhith dol gu tachartas a thaobh obraichean air an ath mhios ann an Inbhur Nis airson clann a tha dol tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus tha mi air tadhal air sgòil-àraich airson bruidhinn ris a’ chlian agus sgòiltean Gàidhlig. Tha mi air bruidhinn riutha ann an Gàidhlig m deidhinn rudan mar sàbhailteachd rathaid, agus tha e math gu bheil mi a’ faighinn cothroman mar sin.

Chanainn ri duine sam bith a tha airson a bhith nam poileas, dall ort. ’S e obair mhath a th’ ann far a bheil thu a’ faighinn cothrom daoine a chuideachadh agus iad gu math tric ann an suidheachadh duilich.

www.scotland.police.uk
When I applied to join the police I was looking for a job which was different from the normal 9-5, and I wanted an occupation where I could serve and help the public and that is exactly what you do in the police.

I would say to anyone who wants to join the police that they have to be good with people. Qualifications and other skills are important, but the most important thing is that you have good people skills and that you enjoy working with people. I would also advise people to get another job when they leave school or college. Find another job for a few years so that you gain experience in working with other people before joining the police. You have to be good with other people, as that is what you do every day. You have to deal with people and often you have to deal with them in difficult situations and you have to have empathy for them and what they are going through. Many of the situations you encounter, people don’t normally have to deal with and it can be difficult.

Another thing you have to be good at, and people perhaps won’t associate this with police work, is paperwork. There is a lot of paperwork involved in the job. If you have charged someone or there has been an accident or other incident, you will have to fill in a lot of forms for the records.

One skill which I have and which few of my colleagues possess is Gaelic. I didn’t have the chance to use it much in my previous postings, but since I have come to Kyle I have had the chance to speak Gaelic in my work. I was in a house last week and when the man there heard my accent he recognised where I was from and began speaking Gaelic to me. You get that sometimes where people are more comfortable speaking to me in Gaelic as it’s their first language. I’ve also had a lot of opportunities through Gaelic. Next week I’m due to attend a careers’ convention in Inverness for Gaelic Medium Education schools and I’ve visited Gaelic nurseries and schools in the past to give talks on road safety and so on.

I would say to anyone considering a career in the police, go for it. It’s a great job where you get the chance to help people when they are often in a very difficult situation.
If you are interested in technology or if you are a budding designer, there are companies and organisations that are keen to find people who combine Gaelic with those skills. Donald John MacDonald has been working in IT for a number of years and has been able to use his Gaelic in much of his work. Anna Rothach has combined her Gaelic and graphic design skills to great effect by starting up her own design company where Gaelic is an integral part of her work.
Bha ùidh agam riamh ann an coimpiutairean agus coimpiutaireachd, ged nach do rinn mi dad leotha anns an sgoil. Ach nuair a chaidh mi dhan oilthigh ’s e ceum ann am Beurla a rinn mi – cuspair a thug toileachas mòr dhomh, ach nach tug stiùireadh dhomh air dè seòrsa dreuchd a chòrdadh rium. Mar sin chùm mi orm san oilthigh agus rinn mi ceum eile ann an IT.

Thug seo dhomh an t-eòlas bha dhìth orm airson obair fhaighinn. Ach bha an t-eòlas sin aig mòran eile: ’s e gu robh Gàidhlig agam cuideachd a dh’fhosgail iomadach doras dhomh gu cothroman-cosnaidh. Bha mi bliadhnaichean ag obair air làrach-lìn Ghàidhlig a’ BhBC. Chaidh mi an uair sin air mo cheann fhìn agus tha mi air obair fhaighinn bho bhuidhnean mar MG ALBA, Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a tha uile a’ lorg daoine a chleachdas sgilean coimpiutaireachd agus Gàidhlig còmhla.

Anns an obair agam tha mi cruthachadh làrach-lìn agus a’ còdadh ann an cânain coimpiutaireachd mar Java agus Javascript. Tha seo a’ toirt dhomh cothrom goireasan (mar Faclair LearnGaelic no Dearbhair airson Mac) a chruthachadh a tha an dà chuid inntinneach agus a tha nan dòigh bheag fhèin a’ dèanamh feum dhan Ghàidhlig.

Tha e cho fìor sa ghabhas a ràdh gum biodh mo bheatha-obraich gu tur eadar-dhealaichte – agus gu math nas bochda – mur nach biodh Gàidhlig agam.
I’ve always been interested in computers and computing (although I never pursued it formally as a subject in school). Indeed, when I went to university I chose to study English Literature: something I enjoyed enormously, but a subject that doesn’t naturally lead on to a specific career. So having finished one degree I decided to go back to uni and do an MSc in IT (Information Technology).

This gave me the necessary skills to think about earning a living in computing. Such skills are, however, quite widespread in the working population, and it was the fact that I was also a Gaelic speaker that really opened career doors for me. I worked for several years on the Gaelic website of the BBC, before becoming self-employed and starting my own business. I’ve been fortunate enough to secure work from organisations like MG ALBA, Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig: all Gaelic bodies and institutions that are looking for people with a blend of Gaelic and computing skills.

My day-to-day work consists of building websites and creating computer programs using languages like Java and Javascript. Programming can create tools like the LearnGaelic dictionary or the Dearbhair for Mac spellchecker. In other words you get the satisfaction of making useful things that also may help (in their own small way) the Gaelic language grow and develop.

It’s no exaggeration to say that my working life would be completely different – not to mention much poorer – if I did not speak Gaelic.

www.sealgar.co.uk
Is mise Anna Rothach agus tha mi nam dhealbhadair ag obair air mo cheann fhèin airson a’ chompanaidh dealbhachaidh grafaigeach agam, GRAFICANNA.

Tha sinn a’ tabhainn seirbhéis do dhaoine, companaidhean agus buidhnean a tha ag iarraidh rudan mar suaicheantasan ûra, bileagan neò lâraich-lìn snasail. Leis gu bheil Gàidhlig agam, tha e fada nas fhasa dhomh fhèin agus do bhuidhnean a bhith ag obair air stuthan dà-chànanach, agus tha e nas luaite cuideachd. Tha bùth bheag agam air an lâraich-lìn cuideachd, a’ reic léinteann-t Gàidhlig a tha gu math snasail agus spòrsail.

Bha úidh mhòr agam ann an Gàidhlig agus ealain fad mo bheatha ach nuair a dh’fhàg mi an àrd-sgoil cha robh mi buileach cinn teach dè bu chòir dhomh a dhèanamh. Rinn mi co-dhùnadh mo chuid Gàidhlig a leasachadh an toiseach aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig far an d’fhuair mi ceum ann an Cànan is Cultan. Às dèidh dhomh ùine a chur seachad ag obair, rinn mi cúrsa HND ann an Visual Communication aig Glasgow Metropolitan College ann an Glaschu far an do dh’ionnsaich mi na sgilean a chuirt mi gu feum le GRAFICANNA.

Tha tòrr an lùib dealbhachaidh grafaigeach. Air aon latha tha mi a’ togail lâraich-lìn agus a’ cruchadh suaicheantas ûr, da-chànanach, agus air latha eile bidh mi ag obair air lèine-t Gàidhlig ûr. ’S e sin an t-adhbhar gu bheil gu feum an obair seo a’ còrdadh rium gu mòr. Tha gach latha gu math eadar-dhealaichte agus ’s urrainn dhomh mo sgilean ealain agus mo chuid Gàidhlig a chleachadh fad na h-ùine.

www.graficanna.com
My name is Anna Rothach and I’m a freelance Graphic Designer working for my own company GRAFICANNA.

I work with individuals, organisations and private companies designing things like logos, leaflets and interactive bilingual websites. Because I speak Gaelic, bilingual design work is made a lot easier for me and for the client too. It also makes the process a lot faster. There is also an online shop on my website selling my funky and fun Gaelic t-shirts.

When I was younger I always loved Art and Gaelic but when I left school I wasn’t so sure what I wanted to study. I made the decision to develop my Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig where I got a degree in Gaelic Language and Culture. After working for a while I then completed an HND in Visual Communication at Glasgow Metropolitan College where I gained the skills I needed for GRAFICANNA.

There is a lot involved in graphic design. On one day you can be building a website and creating a new bilingual logo and on another day you can be developing and sketching out ideas for a new Gaelic t-shirt. This is why I love my job. Every day is completely different from the next and I can be creative and use my Gaelic all the time.

www.graficanna.com
Còmhail is Turasachd
Transport and Tourism
Nuair a thig e gu aigheachd no bhith a’ falbh astar, bidh daoine tric gu leòr a’ faighinn cothrom an cuid Gàidhlig a chur gu feum. Tha Catriona Martindale à Uibhist a Deas air a bhith ag obair ann an turasachd airson ochd bliadhna, agus bidh i gu math tric a’ cleachdadh a cuid Gàidhlig nuair a tha i a’ déiligeadh ri daoine. Agus tha Iain Don Maclomhair ag obair ann an Steòrnabhagh mar Mhanaidsear a’ Phuirt aig Caledonian Mac a’ Bhriuthainn, obair far am bi aige ri déiligeadh ri tòrr dhiofar shuidheachaidhean.

When it comes to hospitality and travel, there can be lots of opportunities to use Gaelic. Catriona Martindale from South Uist has been working in tourism for eight years and she often uses Gaelic when dealing with people. Iain Don Maclver works as Port Manager for Calmac in Stornoway, a job where he has to deal with a variety of different situations on any given day.
Tha mi air a bhith ag obair san Oifis Turasachd ann an Loch Baghasdail airson ochd bliadhna, agus tha an obair a’ còrdadh rium gu mòr. Nuair a thòisich mi ag obair ann bha an obair gu math diofraichte bhon a tha e a-nis. Mun às a thòisich mi bhiodh luchd-turais a’ tighinn a-staigh a’ faighneachd dhonn: dè b’ urrainn dhaibh a dhèanamh, càite am faigheadh iad a h-uile sìon, agus bha sinn a’ fònadh gu B&Bs, taighean-òsta agus àiteachan eile do dhaoine. Ach tha cùisean air atharrachadh a-nis leis an eadar-lìon, agus tha a’ chuid mhòr de dhaoine air rudan a chur air doigh mus tig iad dhan eilean.

Ach bidh daoine fhathast a’ tighinn a-staigh le ceistean agus feumaidh tu a bhith deiseil leis an fhiosrachadh. Bidh daoine, luchd-turais agus muinntir an àite fhèin, a’ tighinn a-staigh a’ faighneachd mu na busaichean, aiseagan, rudan a tha tachairt agus tòrr rudan eile. Bidh feadhainn dhiubh fiù ’s a’ tighinn a-staigh a’ faighneachd mun t-side: a bheil i gus a bhith nas fheàrr a-màireach!

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig air a bhith feumail san obair. Bidh daoine bhon àite a’ tighinn a-staigh dhan oifis agus ’s e a’ Ghàidhlig a bhios sinn a’ bruidhinn ris a’ chuid mhòr dhiubh sin. Bidh luchd-turais a’ faighneachd mun Ghàidhlig, gun sònraichte an fheadhainn a tha air a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig. Bidh iad a’ faighneachd ceisteana no ag iarraidh bruidhinn riut ann an Gàidhlig. Cuideachd na soidhnichean air an rathad, bidh luchd-turais a’ faighneachd mun a’ Ghàidhlig a th’ orra agus na h-ainmean. Agus bidh a’ chuid mhòr aca daonnan a’ faighneachd a bheil tòrr Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn an seo, tha iad airson faighinn a-mach mu deidhinn, tha úidh aca ann.

Duine sam bith a tha smaoineachadh air obair mar seo a dhèanamh, chanainn riutha gum feum thu a bhith math le daoine, agus gum feum foighidinn a bhith agad. Agus ma tha a’ Ghàidhlig agad, nas fheàrr buileach!

Catrìona Martindale
Ionad Turasachd Loch Baghasdail

www.visitscotland.com
I’ve worked in the Tourist Information Centre in Lochboisdale for eight years, and I really enjoy my work. Things have changed quite a lot in my time in the centre. When I first started visitors would come in and ask about the things to do, where they could get various things, and we would spend a lot of time booking B&Bs, hotels and other accommodation for them. But things have changed with the internet, and the majority of people tend to organise a lot of things themselves now before they come to the island.

However, people still come to us with a whole variety of questions and we have to have the information to hand. Both tourists and locals come in and ask about buses, ferries, events and everything else you can think off. Some people even ask us about the weather: can we tell them if it’s going to be a better day tomorrow!

Gaelic has been useful in my work. When people from the island come into the office, many of them have Gaelic and so that’s what we speak. Tourists also ask about Gaelic, especially those who are learning Gaelic. They ask you questions about the language or strike up a conversation with you in Gaelic. People also ask about the road signs and what the Gaelic means. And lots of people ask about how many people speak Gaelic on the island. They want to find out about it, they’re interested.

Anyone who was thinking about working in this sector, I would say to them that you need to be a good people person, and that you need patience. And if you have Gaelic too, that’s a bonus!

www.visitscotland.com
Tha mise air a bhith ag obair aig Calmac airson cha mhòr 20 bliadhna. Bidh ochd bliadhna ann as t-samhradh sa tighinn bhon a thòisich mi mar Mhanaidsear a’ Phuirt aig Calmac ann an Steòrnabhagh. Tha Calmac riamh air a bhith mar phàirt den dòigh-beatha sna h-Eileanan agus chan eil duine a tha fuireach sna h-Eileanan no air costa an iar na h-Alba nach eil fhios aca mu dheidhinn Calmac. Agus ’s e àite a m’ài a bh’ ann far an robh an t-ubhas de dhaoine a’ miannachadh a bhith ag obair ann agus bha mi fhin air feadhainn de na daoine sin.

San obair seo tha agam ri dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil fhios aca ri dhèanamh. Feumaidh mi dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na riaghailtean uile a thaobh na h-oifis agus Slàinte is Sàbhailteachd mar bh’ ann. Tha Calmac riamh air a bhith dèiligeadh ri dèanamh. Tha sinne a’ gluasad daoine bho aon àite gu àite eile agus mar sin ’s e a bhith math le daoine an rud as cudromaiche a th’ ann. Tha sàbhailteachd eile ann mar a bhith math le coimpiutairean agus feumaidh tu cumail suas leis na riaghailtean. Feumaidh tu a bhith dèiligeadh ri diofar shuidheachaidhean fhad ’s a tha iad a’ tighinn an àirde. Agus comas air copan math cofaidh a dhèanamh!

Bhid mise a’ bruidhinn ri daoine ann an Gàidhlig an ire mhath a h-uile latha. Sna h-eileanan tha an t-ubhas de fhathast a tha toirr mòr nas coifthailte a bhith còmhraidh sa Ghàidhlig. Ma gheibh iad cuideigin a chuicheas iad sa Ghàidhlig tha iad toirr nas coifthailte mar sin. Gu h-àraid na daoine nas sine, ’s e a’ Ghàidhlig a’ chìd chànan a bh’ aca.
I’ve been working at Calmac for almost 20 years. It will be eight years this summer that I started work as Port Manager for Calmac in Stornoway. Calmac have always been a part of the way of life in the islands and there is no one on the islands or the west coast who isn’t familiar with Calmac. It’s a company a lot of people want to work for and I am certainly one of them.

In my work I have to make sure that all of the staff know what their role and responsibilities are. I have to make sure that all the various rules and regulations with regard to matters such as Health and Safety are adhered to. I draw up the rosters to ensure that staff know when they are working and what duties they have. I keep an eye on everything that happens in the port that is connected to Calmac. You have to deal with a lot of different things in this job.

The thing I enjoy most about my work is that no two days are ever the same. Even though I’ve been here for nearly 20 years, there is always something that comes up that we haven’t had to deal with before. You must enjoy working with people and you must enjoy helping and dealing with the passengers. We allow people to travel from one place to another and so it’s vital that you are a good people person. Other skills are also required such as computer skills and a knowledge of the regulations. You also have to be willing and able to deal with different situations as they occur. And it’s a bonus if you make a good cup of coffee!

In my work I speak to people in Gaelic almost every day. In the islands there are a lot of people who are much more comfortable speaking Gaelic if they can. If they get someone who can assist them in Gaelic, they are more comfortable with that. Especially the older people, as Gaelic is their first language.

www.calmac.co.uk
The careers above are only a selection of the jobs where people use Gaelic. Just like other languages, Gaelic can prove useful in any line of work. From crofters to shop staff, or joiners or architects, they all might use Gaelic. Gaelic can be heard in various working environments, and the number of careers and jobs where Gaelic is deemed necessary or valuable is growing. If you have Gaelic, you have a chance. And you have a choice.
Gabh an Cothrom
ann an Gàidhlig
Gaelic careers

www.gaidhlig.org.uk
www.teagasc.com