



*Globetrotters, Backpackers, and Jetsetters:
Aiding Students in International Job Searching*

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Why should we learn about international careers?

- ❖ State Department statistics show that at least 2 million American citizens work abroad¹, others cite up to as many as 4 million², and these numbers may not include those working for multi-national corporations based in US
- ❖ Many sources say that a Masters degree is preferable for most positions, ^{3, 4} but developing specific skills can help undergraduate students
- ❖ The growth of study abroad programs, a 9.6% jump between 2002/03 and 2003/04 alone, results in more graduates with international experience and perspectives⁵
- ❖ Top 20 schools for undergrad participation range from Boston University at 34.8% and University of St. Thomas and Pepperdine University at 61.5%⁵

Reasons students search internationally

- ❖ Strong Study Abroad Experience
- ❖ Desire to travel
- ❖ Utilize language skills
- ❖ Cultural background
- ❖ “Why not?”
- ❖ “James Bond Complex”



What Domestic Employers Look For:

- ❖ In general, companies do not recruit specifically for those with international experience.
- ❖ Technical skills are more important, and they don't believe the skills gained through study abroad are transferable.
- ❖ They WILL recruit someone with international experience if the job requires cross-cultural skills, or if they need an overseas liaison.⁶
- ❖ However, recruiters do look for “soft-skills” gained through international travel/study and students need to translate this in resumes and cover letters.

What International Employers Look For:

- ❖ Language Skills
- ❖ Previous Experience Abroad
- ❖ Ability to adapt to new situations
- ❖ Cultural Sensitivity
- ❖ Awareness of Global Issues
- ❖ Prior experience with particular culture
- ❖ Citizenship
- ❖ Specific Skills (technical, management, research)

“I want to stay here”

International Twisters

- ❖ Jobs that have an international component
 - Study Abroad Counselor
 - Interpreters/Translators
 - Embassy workers
 - International Relations
 - Multinational Corporations
 - Relief Organizations
 - Companies with international clients
- ❖ What are the benefits?



“I want to go abroad?”

Undecided Students

❖ Questions to ask:

- Vocation, Avocation, Vacation
- What do you want to do?
- Are there opportunities for that in your country of choice?
- Are there resources you can use to obtain work visas, housing and basic living necessities (housing, health care, social support)?
- Personality traits, Relationships
- Health Issues, Risks

“I want to go back!”

Backpackers, Globetrotters and Jetsetters

- ❖ Myths about working abroad
 - “Working internationally is always a good career move”
 - Does it fit with their long term goals?
 - “I can make a lot of money”
 - Hidden expenses: visa, health insurance, travel, phone bills, “foreigner’s tax”
 - Paying of school debts
 - “It’ll be just like when I studied abroad”
 - “Language skills and a desire to work hard are all I need”

“Where’s my visa?!”

- ❖ Options for working abroad
 - Short-term work abroad
 - Teaching English in a foreign country
 - Volunteer/Service Programs
 - Working Abroad
 - Multi-national/International Companies
 - Governmental

Short Term Work Abroad

- ❖ Less than one year
- ❖ British Universities North American Club (BUNAC)
- ❖ Council on International Educational Exchange
- ❖ Some volunteer opportunities (3-9 months)
- ❖ Internships (post-baccalaureate)
- ❖ Seasonal work

Teaching English Abroad

- ❖ Nationally sponsored programs
 - Japan Exchange and Teaching Program
- ❖ Independent placement companies (Knowledge Source, Footprints Recruiting, ASK Now Inc.)
- ❖ World Teach, CIEE
- ❖ TEFL, TESOL, TESL
 - Training programs range from 6 weeks to 1-2 years
 - Cambridge Certificate Courses (CELTA)
 - American institutions such as School for International Training, Transworld Schools, Boston Language Institute

Volunteering Abroad

- ❖ Peace Corps
- ❖ Idealist.org
- ❖ CIEE International Volunteer Project
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity International
- ❖ Doctors Without Borders
- ❖ United Nations Volunteers
- ❖ Cross-Cultural Solutions
- ❖ Winant and Clayton Volunteers, Inc.



Working Abroad

- ❖ Types of Visas – student, travel, temporary, work permits
- ❖ Getting work – restrictions on companies hiring non-nationals
- ❖ Understanding the job market – Who's hiring who?
- ❖ “Under the table” work
- ❖ Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Consulates/Embassies



Multinational/Global Corporations

- ❖ Students should be prepared to spend a few years in the US first⁶
- ❖ International Trainee Programs – Citibank, GE, International Training Centre for Women, Merrill Lynch, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu⁷
- ❖ Sending people abroad is a large, expensive risk for companies, they need to be sure they're ready for it
- ❖ Ex-pat transfers may get “hardship pay.” Transfer packages may include money for moving, housing, schooling, extended vacation time.
- ❖ May be time-limited

Governmental

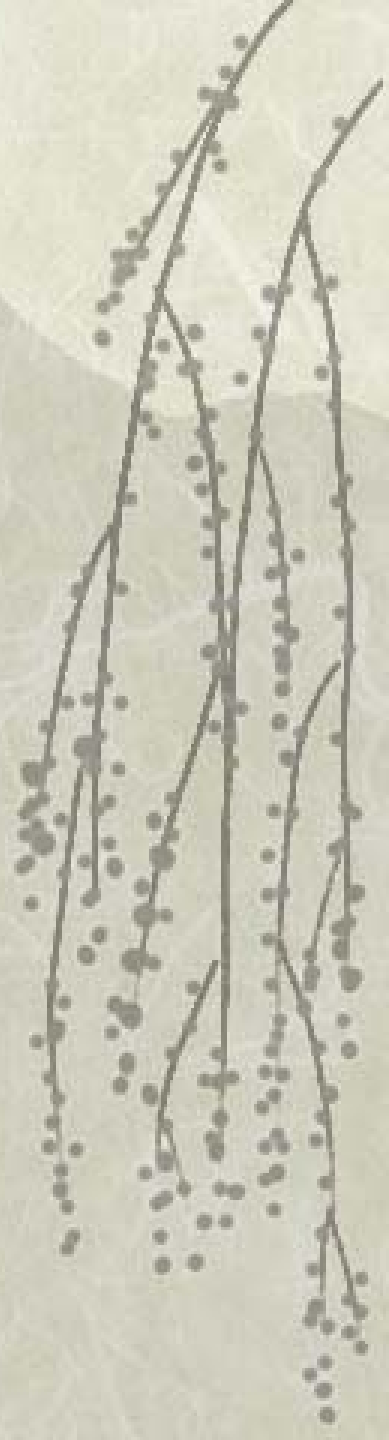
- ❖ US Embassies abroad
- ❖ Foreign embassies in the US
- ❖ US Foreign Service (State Department)
 - Highly Competitive
 - Foreign Service Exam
 - High level of movement
 - Five Tracks – Management Affairs, Consular Affairs, Economic Affairs, Political Affairs, Public Diplomacy
 - Intense training (up to two years) including foreign language study
 - <http://www.careers.state.gov/officer/>

The Search: Documentation

❖ Resumes, CV's and Cover Letters

- Resume style and information vary depending on country. Many include age, parents names, marital status, children etc.
- Some countries prefer one page simple resume, others multi-page curriculum vitae
- If applying to companies in-country, should be translated and in local format
- <http://international.monster.com/workabroad/findingajob/resumesletters/resumeintocv/>
- www.GoingGlobal.com and print-versions of country guides have resume examples, cover letters and CVs tailored to specific countries

*Further Resources
and
Questions*



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