

# International Job Search ...for US student



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# Describe your Ideal Overseas Experience...





# Are you ready...?

- It's not always glamorous
- Will be away from family & friends
- May need to speak the language
- Need to be adaptable
- Pay and benefits may not be as good
- May start at a lower level than you would in your home country

**...Still Interested ?**



# Be Creative in your Approach

- Remember, there are many different avenues to get yourself overseas...
  - Study abroad programs
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Internships abroad
  - International Careers
  - Ex-pat assignments (for senior level)



# Understand your Objectives & Abilities

## ■ Objectives

- What do you hope to gain?
- Where do you want to go? And Why?
- Are you looking for Cultural Experience or Career Enhancement?
- What's more important Money or Experience?

## ■ Abilities

- What special skills or knowledge can you bring to your target country?
- What would be a good fit for you?



# Do your Homework

- Research your Target Country / City
  - Learn key industrial sectors, economic trends and relevant employment laws
  - Research volunteer or educational programs
  - Learn about any cross-cultural issues
  - Find students or professors from that country, what can they share with you?



# Prepare your Marketing Tools

- Create an International Resume & Cover Letter
- Check reference materials to be sure you're using the correct form, content and tone...
  - Do you list GPA or % in Class?
  - Do you include a photo?
  - Do you include work authorization information?



# Keep in mind the skills you need for international jobs!

- Ability to learn
- Adventurous spirit
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Functional skills
- Initiative
- Language skills
- Sense of humor



## The Skills You Need (cont.)

- Sensitivity, adaptability, and flexibility
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Tenacity
- Willingness to take risks
- Probably most important is cross-cultural competence, being sensitive to multicultural customs, and effectively practicing them



# Resume/Cover Letter Abroad

- Investigate how to write a resume and cover letter that are tailored to the country you are headed.
- The resume abroad may simply detail academic and formal work experience in chronological order
- Sometimes two or more pages long.
- Sometimes includes age, marital status, race and/or religion.
- Examples: [www.eurograduate.com](http://www.eurograduate.com)



# Use a variety of Search Strategies

- You can try...
  - Local newspapers, International Job Websites, Magazines and Trade Publications, etc.
- BUT... the most effective job search method is still Networking !
  - Build your contacts list
  - Conduct informational interviews
  - And always ask, “Is there anyone else you know, that I should talk to?”



# More Job Search Strategies

- Participate in experiential education programs—internships, co-ops, and study abroad experiences
- Research firms with international interests
- Only work for a firm that can arrange a work permit for you. (Work permits are required for getting hired.)
- Job search strategies vary by country. For more details, see: [www.eurograduate.com](http://www.eurograduate.com)
- Patience and persistence! Your first job might not be overseas, but you will eventually get there!



# Stay on Track

- Set realistic goals for your job search... review and re-adjust accordingly
- Use a calendar system to schedule follow ups, phone calls or appointments
- Manage your contact information effectively
- Develop a support system, it won't happen overnight
- Follow up with every lead on time...and Always Send Thank You's
- Keep a balanced perspective...plan time for fun too



# Make Contact !

- Build relationships with your Contacts
- Let them know you'd like to plan a visit
- Ask if you can meet
- Informational interviews...be prepared.
- And knock their socks off !



# Prepare to Interview for Abroad (as compared to the U.S.)

- Interviews vary by country
- Being late may not be a problem
- The interviewer may do the bulk of the talking
- Making eye contact—especially with people of a higher status—may be perceived as disrespectful
- Age, race, sex, and/or marital status may be issues in the interview. Males may be expected to dominate interactions with females, and younger people may be expected to show deference to their elders
- The interview may feature indirect questions about your competency and your experience



## Interviewing Abroad (cont.)

- You may be considered boastful, self-serving, or too individualistic if you cite your accomplishments and skills
- Jobs may be assigned by the government or family. You may be viewed as disloyal if you question your role in the company. Sometimes, companies assign work and expect individuals to accept whatever is available
- The employer expects a long-term commitment from employees; consequently, you're not expected to be immediately competent in your job



## Interviewing Abroad (cont.)

- Questions about strengths and weaknesses, leadership style, problem-solving abilities and the like may be considered an invasion of privacy
- Researching an organization in advance could be perceived as showing too much initiative and independence
- You may be considered rude or forward if you ask an employer where the company is in the interview process and when you can expect to hear back from them



Resources to get you going !



# Researching your Target

- Check the Library for..
  - International or Local Newspapers
  - Country Specific Reports or Databases
  - World Consumer Markets and World Factbooks
- Utilize Career Services Resource Rooms for additional resources
- Search International Websites / Job Postings
- Chamber of Commerces



# UW-Madison websites

- Study Abroad. UW-Madison offers more than 100 different study abroad programs around the world.  
[www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)
- GO Global! The International Careers Website (coordinated by Global Studies, UW-Madison) Go Global! Is an interactive website dedicated to assisting students who wish to gain international or internationally-related employment after graduation from UW-Madison  
<http://go.global.wisc.edu/>



# Links to Overseas Resources

- U.S. Department of State  
<http://www.state.gov/>
- Riley Guide International Job Opportunities  
<http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>
- Eurograduate.Com: European Job Search  
<http://www.eurograduate.com/>
- How to Acquire a Visa to Work in the Nation You Want to Work  
<http://www.embpage.org>
- The Council on International Educational Exchange  
<http://www.ciee.org/>



# Internship Placement Organizations

- **AIESEC**

- Local Student Organization (1267 Grainger)
- Internships and Exchange Programs
- <http://www.sit.wisc.edu/~aiesec>

- **ASF** (American Scandinavian Foundation)

- Placement in Scandinavia
- Has Business and Exchange Opportunities
- <http://www.amscan.org>



# Internship Placement Organizations

- **CDS International**

- World-wide placement, wide range of opportunities
- <http://www.cdsintl.org>

- **Contact Singapore**

- Some business opportunities in SCM, Finance, etc
- <http://www.contactsingapore.org.sg>

- **DISCO International**

- Primarily for Japanese and Korean speaking students
- [www.careerforum.net](http://www.careerforum.net)



Print Resources (located at Letters & Science and Human Ecology Career Resource Library, 905 University Avenue, Suite 160)

American Jobs Abroad  
Careers in Foreign Language  
Careers in International Affairs  
Careers in Latin America  
Careers in Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality  
Employment Opportunities with the United Nations  
Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors  
Guide to Careers in World Affairs  
How To Get Job in Europe  
How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas  
Inside a US Embassy: How the Foreign Service Works for America  
International Job Finder  
International Jobs Directory  
Jobs for People Who Love to Travel  
Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers  
Opportunities in Overseas Careers  
The Directory of Work and Study in Developing Countries  
The Global Resume and CV Guide  
Working in Asia

AND MORE!!!!



# University Contacts

- Proactive Approach -- Ask for Help!
- International Language Professors
- International Student Services (ISS)
- Attend Alumni Networking Events
- Student Organizations





Most importantly...Keep at It !!

**" The best way to predict the  
future is to invent it."**

**Alan Kay**

(Conceiver of laptop computers.)