International Opportunities

Exciting Careers Overseas!

Skills

- Cultural sensitivity
- Flexibility
- Interpersonal skills
- Patience
- Sense of humor
- Independence
- Sense of adventure
- Perseverance
- Assertiveness
- Self-confidence
- Open-mindedness
- Strong communication skills despite barriers
- Ability to handle new and unfamiliar situations
- Ability to learn and adapt quickly
- Appreciation for and understanding of diversity

Working Abroad

Whether you’re looking for short term employment in your favorite foreign city, or you want to begin an “international” career, the international job market offers a variety of opportunities in business, government, education, development work, and the service and hospitality industries. While not all international jobs are actually based overseas, those that are headquartered in the U.S. typically involve international issues and might require international travel.

Start Small

Finding a job abroad can be extremely difficult. Realistically, a foreign country will almost always hire one of their own citizens for a position rather than sponsor an American. Get your foot in the door by volunteering, participating in an organized internship, or using an agency such as BUNAC, which will grant you a temporary work visa. Then, while you are in the country, network with potential employers.

Paperwork, Paperwork and More Paperwork!

If you don’t already have one, the first thing you will need to do is get a passport. You will also need to check with the embassy or consulate of the country in which you would like to work for their visa and work permit requirements. Start early, as this is typically a time-consuming process.

Financial Considerations

No matter what you’ll be doing or where you plan to go, save some money first and don’t move overseas empty-handed. Salaries for international positions depend not only on the type of job you get, but also on the cost of living and tax obligations existing in a particular country. Your employer should be able to tell you if you qualify for a cost of living adjustment or the foreign earned income exclusion.

Don’t Pack Your Bags Yet!

Wherever you go, there are bound to be distinct cultural differences and local customs which you need to be aware of and respect. Certain gestures, expressions, and behaviors that are perfectly acceptable in one culture can be quite offensive in another. Researching a culture before you go abroad can help ease the transition and lessen the degree of culture shock.
Major Employers

Teaching Abroad
Teaching abroad is one of the easiest ways to break into the international arena. Experienced teachers seeking K-12 positions can find jobs in all subject matters, as well as administration, with U.S. Department of State Schools, Department of Defense Schools, and schools established by American businesses abroad (e.g., Exxon and Texaco). Currently, however, the greatest international demand is for teachers of English language, especially those with “American” English accents. A number of U.S. and foreign educational organizations, such as JET and WorldTeach, offer structured teaching positions, which include training, job placement, and housing. Applying directly to foreign language academies and freelancing are two other common teaching options. Currently, Eastern Europe, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan are the best markets for English language teachers.

Government and International Organizations
Many of the varied agencies and departments of the federal government are heavily involved in foreign affairs, from administering foreign aid, to setting foreign policy, to monitoring economic and military developments throughout the world. While many entry-level government positions are based in the States, there are a few other routes to take if you want to move abroad more rapidly. The Foreign Service and the Peace Corps offer opportunities for entry-level personnel to live and work abroad almost immediately. Familiarity with a foreign language, experience abroad, and a superior academic record can certainly help you get a foot in the door. International organizations, such as the United Nations and World Bank, are more competitive to break into and require specialized skills and advanced degrees.

Nonprofits
Nonprofit organizations are the missionaries of the international arena and the major agents of change in developing third and fourth world countries. Nonprofits offer the opportunity to get involved in a number of important international causes and programs, including healthcare, human rights, environmental concerns, and education. Paid overseas positions are competitive, requiring language skills, specialized training, and advanced degrees. If you’re solely interested in beginning a career in international development work, your best bets are either to volunteer for a non-profit organization abroad, or to find an entry-level paid position in one of the numerous international headquarters located in the United States.

Private Business
While multinational organizations offer many international opportunities, it pays to think “small” as well. Many import-export companies, contracting and consulting firms, educational tour organizations, and a host of other private businesses are increasing their international interests and activities. While the actual job possibilities are as varied internationally as they are nationally, chances are slim that you’ll be able to find a paid position abroad right after college. It’s more likely that you will begin your international career in the U.S., with the chance to be involved in international affairs and possible short-term travel.

Other
There are a host of service and hospitality opportunities available all over the world. Hotels, restaurants, resorts, retail shops, and bars are only some of the organizations offering employment for the student or recent graduate seeking a temporary international experience. Work abroad programs, such as BUNAC, are helpful in securing these types of positions. Another popular option is to be an au pair or nanny, which offers paid employment as well as a place to live. If you’re not interested in any of these traditional job opportunities, grants can provide an alternative way of raising the money you need to pursue international research, education, or travel.
International Volunteer Programs

Note: Some of the following organizations and programs may charge a fee for participation.

AIDE
www.aideabroad.org

Amigos de las Americas
www.amigoslink.org

Amizade
http://amizade.org

CARE
www.care.org

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org

Cross Cultural Solutions
www.crossculturalsolutions.org

Foundation for Sustainable Development
www.fsinternational.org

Global Service Corps
www.globalservicecorps.org

Thailand and Tanzania

Global Volunteers
www.globalvolunteers.org

Habitat for Humanity Global Village
www.habitat.org/gv

i-to-i
www.i-to-i.com

Idealist
www理想ist.org

Domestic and international opportunities

Institute for International Cooperation
www.iicd-volunteer.org

Africa, Central and South America

InterAction
www.interaction.org

International YMCA
www.ymca.net/world-service

Orphanage Outreach
www.orphanage-outreach.org

Peacework
www.peacework.org

Princeton in Asia
http://piaweb.princeton.edu

Projects Abroad
www.projects-abroad.org

ProWorld Service Corps
www.proworldsc.org

Volunteer in Mexico, Peru, and Belize

Service Civil International-
International Voluntary Service
www.sci-ivs.org

United Nations Volunteers
www.unv.org

United Planet
www.unitedplanet.org

UVolunteer
www.uvolunteer.org

VE Global - in Chili
http://www.ve-global.org/

Volunteer Match
www.volunteermatch.org

Volunteers for Peace
www.vfp.org

World Relief
http://worldrelief.org

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
www.wwoof.org

World Vision International
www.wvi.org

Wake Forest University Office of Personal & Career Development does not endorse or recommend any website or organization named in this document. Students and alumni are responsible for all necessary precautions when interviewing for or accepting positions listed with organizations or on websites named in this document, and users are responsible for checking the credentials and integrity of an organization.
Finding Foreign Owned Companies Operating in the US

1. Go to the ZSR Library website, http://zsr.wfu.edu
2. Select Databases tab
3. On the left side under Browse by Title, select “C”
4. Scroll down and select “Corporate Affiliations”
5. In the “Features” tab, select “Advanced Search”
6. On the first line under Criterion click on the drop down menu and select “Parent Country”
7. On the adjacent line under Value type in the name of the foreign country in which you are interested
8. On the second line under Criterion click on the drop down menu and select “Country”
9. On the adjacent line under Value type in “United States”
10. Select “Search”

Finding US Owned Companies Operating in Foreign Countries

1. Go to the ZSR Library website, http://zsr.wfu.edu
2. Select Databases tab
3. On the left side, Browse by Title, select “C”
4. Scroll down and select “Corporate Affiliations”
5. In the “Features” tab, select “Advanced Search”
6. On the first line under Criterion click on the drop down menu and select “Parent Country”
7. On the adjacent line under Value type in “United States”
8. On the second line under Criterion click on the drop down menu and select “Country”
9. On the adjacent line under Value type in the name of the foreign country in which you are interested
10. Select “Search”
Internship and Work Abroad

Note: Some of these programs may charge a fee to participate.

American-Scandinavian Foundation
www.amscan.org

Association for International Practical Training
www.aipt.org

AustraLearn
www.australearn.com
Internship programs for students and recent graduates in Australia and New Zealand

Back Door Jobs
www.backdoorjobs.com

BUNAC
www.BUNAC.org
Work authorization service for Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries

Careers in Australia
www.careeronline.com.au

CDS International
www.cdsintl.org
Summer intern programs

Department of State/Foreign Service
www.careers.state.gov

EuroJobs
www.Eurojobs.com

The Experiment in International Living
Lead high school students in foreign countries
www.experimentinternational.org

Foreign Policy Association
www.fpa.org

French-American Chamber of Commerce
www.faccnyc.org

German American Chamber of Commerce
www.gaccny.com

Go Abroad
www.goabroad.com

Going Global
www.goingglobal.com

Environment Jobs
www.stopdodo.com

IES
www.iesabroad.org

Interexchange
www.interexchange.com
Nanny jobs in Europe

Intern Abroad
www.internabroad.com

Intern Jobs
www.internjobs.com

International Cooperative Education
www.icemenlo.com

International Jobs
www.4icj.com

International Jobs
www.graduatejobs.com
Get password from Career Services

Intrax Cultural Exchange
www.intraxinc.com

LatPro
www.latpro.com
Jobs requiring Spanish

Overseas Digest
www.overseasdigest.com

Overseas Jobs
www.overseasjobs.com

Peace Corps
www.peacecorps.gov

Riley Guide
www.rileygude.com/internat.html
Resources and search engines by region and country

UCAN Internship Database
https://ucan-csm.symplicity.com/students

US Government Jobs Abroad
http://intlorganizationjobs.state.gov/iva

USAID
www.usaid.gov/careers

USA-Interns
www.usa-interns.org
Internships in Germany

More great links!
www.umich.edu/~icenter/
Overseas Teaching

(Some of these are paid; some are unpaid. Some may charge you a fee to participate. Check individual organization for details. Use caution when applying to for-profit organizations that charge fees to become “certified” to teach.)

Accrediting Commission for Schools
www.acswasc.org

Association of American Schools in South America
www.aassa.com

Berlitz
www.berlitz.com

Connecting Schools to the World
www.connectingschools.com.ar
Argentina
WFU alum: Cristina Rapela

Council on International Education Exchange
www.ciee.org

Council of International Schools
www.cois.org

Dave’s ESL Café
www.eslcafe.com

Education Embassy of Spain

Educational Services International
www.teachoverseas.org

English International
www.english-international.com

English Language Teaching
www.tefl.com

European Council of International Schools
www.ecis.org

Friends of World Teaching
www.fowt.com

Hess Educational Organization
www.hess.com.tw
Teach in Taiwan

Learning Enterprises
www.learningenterprises.org

The International Educator
www.tieonline.com

International School Services
www.iss.edu
Respected recruiting sources for teachers and administrators

ITC Teach English Abroad
www.itc-training.com

Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET)
www.jetprogramme.org

Maryknoll China Service Project
www.chinaserv.org
Room to Read
www.roomtoread.org

Search Associates
www.search-associates.com

Teach Abroad
www.teachabroad.com

Teach English in Mexico
www.teach-english-mexico.com

UNI Overseas Recruiting Fair
www.uni.edu/placement/overseas/osfair.html

US-China Education and Culture Exchange Center
www.uschinaedu.org

Wall Street Institute School of English
www.wallstreetinstitute.com

World Teach
www.worldteach.org

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Getting Your Foot In The Door

Start Early
Insiders agree that you should start an international job search earlier than you would a domestic one. Obstacles such as medical evaluations, security clearances, fierce competition, and foreign bureaucracy can make the whole procedure time-consuming and difficult. While the amount of necessary lead-time will differ by industry and job, beginning your job search at least four or five months prior to your availability is always a safe bet.

On-Campus Recruiting
Don’t miss out on the opportunity to meet employers through on-campus recruiting. Many organizations with international interests such as investment banks, consulting firms, and the Peace Corps regularly recruit on campus. Check with the Office of Personal & Career Development to find out who is coming and when.

Think Domestic First
Although this may seem contrary to your objective, many successful international professionals began their careers in domestic positions. One of the best ways to break into the international job market especially in the area of private business is to pinpoint organizations conducting international activities of some sort, and then apply for a domestic position within that company. There will more likely be opportunities for promotion into the international side after you have paid your dues.

Network the Globe
In such a tough job market, it helps to make as many contacts as possible. Consider this the perfect opportunity for you to talk about yourself; let your professors, friends, family, co-workers and anyone else know about your career goals. Ask if they know someone working in your area of interest. Alumni are also a great resource.

Use a Placement Agency
Placement abroad programs place current or recently graduated students in paid internship or job positions or assist students in finding positions abroad. This is a great option for getting a taste of what it is like to work in a foreign country and a good step in the door if you are thinking of eventually finding a more permanent, long-term position in a foreign country. There is a fee (usually between $250 and $800, which covers your work authorization) to participate in this type of program. Students are responsible for paying for (and sometimes also finding) their own housing.

Thinking of living or traveling abroad?

This site will get you started:
www.state.gov/travel/