



PREPARE...Job Search for International Students

International students searching for an opportunity outside of their home country must be able to adapt to the new culture and adopt a different career search strategy. In addition to the general resources outlined throughout this career guide, here, we address additional considerations for international students.

ADDITIONAL STEPS

After reviewing the Four-Year Action Plan on page 6, international students should consider the information in this section when planning their career strategy in the competitive international student job marketplace. A solid GPA is important but is not enough to overcome U.S. company-reported obstacles in hiring international employees. Below are actions you can take to help you stand out from your peers:

English Communication

English communication and interpersonal skills will make or break your success. Take advantage of all language courses, attend English conversation clubs, practice small talk at networking events and workshops, and join student clubs and organizations.

Work Authorization

Be informed and be a resource for employers on Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). Attend the UCS CPT/OPT information session to learn the policies and application processes. Visit <http://ois.indiana.edu> for more information.

Professional Experience

Think outside the box to find opportunities to build your skills. On-campus jobs, part-time positions, project-based work, involvement in clubs, Bloomington community organizations, and volunteering are effective ways to develop your interpersonal and

COMPANY-REPORTED OBSTACLES IN HIRING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

- **Language:** Poor command of English, particularly for a business or social setting; difficult to integrate into teams.
- **Cultural Isolation:** Difficulty immersing into American culture; appear to work alone or exclusively with other international students.
- **Administrative Barriers:** Intentions are sidetracked by organizational and governmental hoop jumping.
- **Return on Investment:** Uncertainty due to students repatriating and taking longer to adjust and be properly trained.
- **Legal vs. Moral Considerations:** When unemployment is high stateside, employers feel uncomfortable hiring international students.



INT'L STUDENT JOB SEARCH

If you decide that U.S. employment is your first choice, you must stand out from all of your peers in regard to your verbal and written communication skills and the ability to make small talk. While you cannot control government regulations or the economy, you can control YOU. Meet with a career coach to take advantage of all the resources the UCS offers. If you work hard, it is possible to overcome these obstacles.

DECIDING ON A POST-GRADUATION CAREER GOAL

International students looking to work in the U.S. post-graduation face a competitive environment. **While over 40% of Kelley international students' first preference is to obtain a full-time job in the U.S., only about 20% are actually ready to do so.** We care about your career aspirations and want to see you succeed.

In order to increase your chances of finding success, you should use several job search strategies. Here are some post-graduate options to consider:

Home Country Employment

International Employment

Graduate School

1-year U.S. Employment with OPT

U.S. Based Employment

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER WHILE THINKING THROUGH YOUR OPTIONS:

- **There are limited H1B visas** awarded each year to work in the corporate world, leading to a very competitive landscape to find jobs in the U.S. Consider exploring non-corporate opportunities offering different work visas in the U.S.
- **There are resources available** to help with your home country, international, or graduate school search.
- **A career coach can help you** create an action plan based on your goals and discuss Parallel Planning (back-up planning) in case your first choice does not work out.

Indiana University GLOBAL Facts:

690,000+
Living Graduates
Worldwide

160+
Alumni Countries
Worldwide

5
Global Gateway
Offices Worldwide

