

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREER PLANNER

## Year

# 1

- Explore [CareerNetwork.msu.edu](http://CareerNetwork.msu.edu) - there's a page for international students and tips on resumes, jobs, etc!
- Login to your [Handshake](#) account to gain access to career advising, career events, and jobs and internships
- Meet with a Career Advisor to set individual goals for your first year
- Write a resume and meet with a Career Advisor to have it reviewed
- Explore MSU student organizations and join 1 or 2 - employers value involvement outside the classroom
- Consider getting an on-campus job - this is a great way to meet people and build work skills, which is important before gaining your first internship
- Understand all legal requirements of international student work authorization in the U.S. by reading through the [Work in the U.S.](#) section of the OISS website
- Apply for summer internships and get Curricular Practical Training work authorization from OISS before you begin working

## Year

# 2

- Meet with your Career Advisor to discuss your experiences and goals.
- Attend major career fairs to learn about companies and practice your professional conversation skills
- Create a LinkedIn profile and start connecting to your instructors, classmates, advisors, and alumni
- Continue to work on campus or start a campus job if you haven't already - U.S. employers value all types of work experience
- Make sure your Handshake profile is up to date - employers can search Handshake to find students who make their profiles public
- Attend major career fairs, like the Local Job & Internship Fair and the Diversity Career Fair
- Aim to find an internship over the summer related to your major
- Plan for your home country job search by connecting with MSU alumni

## Year

# 3

- Know when and how to communicate your international student work authorization if you hope to intern or work full-time in the U.S.
- Consider taking on a leadership role in your student organization
- Considering graduate school after graduation? Begin preparing for application requirements by learning about personal statements, references, required tests, and other prerequisites
- Check in with your Career Advisor to think strategically about life after MSU
- Build your professional communication skills by having practice interviews
- If you hope to work immediately after graduation, plan for a home country job search in addition to a U.S. job search
- Develop your network of connections - use LinkedIn, the MSU Alumni Network, friends/family back home, and MSU faculty and staff
- Continue to work/intern in an area related to your post-MSU goals

## Year

# 4

- Meet with your Career Advisor at the beginning of the year
- If you plan to work after graduation, participate in job fairs and career events
- Spend more time networking than job searching if you hope to obtain a job after graduation
- Tailor your resumes and cover letters for each position to which you apply
- If you plan to pursue graduate school, research your desired schools and application requirements early
- Fully understand available options for working in the U.S. after graduation based on current visa status (Optional Practical Training, Academic Training) and meet with your OISS Advisor
- Apply for OPT early if you plan to work in the U.S. after graduation
- Attend workshops, networking events, and begin applying for jobs in the U.S. and your home country
- Complete MSU's post-grad survey after you graduate. This survey is administered by your college and tells them where you go when you leave MSU