

guide to WORKING ABROAD



CONSIDERATIONS

MOTIVATION. Why do you want an international job?

IDEAS. What do you see yourself doing overseas?

LOCATION. Where do you want to live, either short term or long term?

TRAVEL. Do you want to work only as a means to support your travel to a new country, or as a stepping-stone for a future career path?

SKILLS. What type of unique skills do you have to offer, and how will you use them?

PREPARATION. How can you gain experience before you depart?

Anticipate the Adjustment...

- Be aware that you may experience some level of culture shock, confusion, and/or stress at some point
- Talk about your experiences with those you meet, communicate with your family and friends regularly
- Explore your new surroundings with an open mind and willingness to learn and assimilate
- Participate actively in work and/or school to meet new people and develop language/culture skills

TYPES OF POSITIONS

FULL TIME

WHY: Many great employers exist around the world, and many US companies have an international branch.

TIP: Check visa requirements and seek employers who will help you navigate the transition.

INTERNSHIPS

WHY: Gain international experience, network, and learn highly-valued transferable skills.

TIP: Determine salary and/or academic credit, and research company culture by connecting with current/past employees and interns on LinkedIn.

SHORT TERM

WHY: Great way to earn funds while traveling and gain a glimpse of another culture.

TIP: Check out seasonal hospitality and tourism jobs, childcare, camps, and more.

VOLUNTEER

WHY: Contribute to positive social change while gaining skills and impressive resume content.

TIP: Research reputable organizations, decide the type of environment that works best, and determine the funds required to live there.

TEACH ENGLISH

WHY: Many countries seeking English educators, either short term or for a longer period of time. There are hundreds of organizations and opportunities to consider.

TIP: Research the house, food, insurance and funding of each position. Work with an established placement organization or exchange program, and ask for references from previous teachers.



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LOGISTICS BEFORE YOU LEAVE

LANGUAGE SKILLS. It is important to possess a general knowledge of the language spoken your desired country, and immersion is the best way to learn it. Realize that although language is helpful in a job search, fluency is not necessarily a determining factor: knowledge of languages is highly desirable, but relevant work experience and a background in technical subjects are also important.



JOB SEARCHING. Job searching abroad will likely different from here in the U.S. Learn how to network with those overseas and how to consult company contacts in order to build connections. Research specific companies and talk to future employers. Connect with those who have worked abroad to learn more about the process.



WORKPLACE CULTURE. Living in a foreign culture may allot for a different set of rules. Become informed of typical work culture of the country you are planning to reside. Check out [GoinGlobal](#) for great information about living and working abroad.



MONEY AND BANKING. Keep in mind that you may be required to exchange your money while abroad. Make sure that you can access your funds abroad, or if you will need to set up an account at a local bank. Be sure that you have the financial cushion to absorb needed expenses: plan to have enough in savings for at least 2-3 months' worth of expenses. Consider how you will budget for the following:



Housing
Transportation
Food

Taxes
Airfare
Visa/passport fees

Household amenities
Personal expenses

Don't forget your taxes! Talk with an accountant or tax advisor before heading out. The most common money-related misconception among Americans abroad is that they do not need to file taxes. For more information, visit the IRS tax guide for U.S. citizens living abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p54/index.html>



VISAS AND WORK PERMITS. Obtaining a visa or work permit can often prove to be the most challenging element in your pre-departure process, though most would say the experience of living and working abroad is well worth the effort. There are two things to keep in mind during the process:

- Securing a way to enter the country initially
- Obtaining a work permit or permanent residency status after you arrive

Note the difference in short term and long-term visas and permits. Short term tourists sometimes do not need a visa, and student visas are granted relatively easily. Work permit visas are normally available only through application by an employer who has offered you a job. To get started:

- Contact the embassy and consult your region for information
- Talk to someone who has been through the process: this is often the best way to learn the system
- Give yourself plenty of time to submit your application



SAFETY AND INSURANCE. While no country you live in can offer a guarantee of safety, there are many steps that you can take to reduce the risk of being a victim of a crime abroad. Start by informing yourself of the country's culture, laws, and politics. Secure an international health insurance plan. Find out how citizens of the country where you will reside pay their medical bills, and if the same coverage is available to resident foreigners. Check out <http://www.studentsabroad.com/insurance.html> for more information about coverage abroad.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

As you begin to become more familiar with the ins and outs of your new country, be proactive and to take advantage of career development opportunities.

What transferable skills are you gaining?

In what ways are you growing and developing as a person (self-confidence, independence, tolerance, empathy, etc.)? Many of these qualities are highly valued by employers, and you will have specific examples and stories to illustrate these skills?

What types of cross-cultural learning experiences are you undergoing? By interacting with locals and responding to the demands of living within another culture, you are likely gaining experiences highly valued by many industries operating within a global marketplace.

What communication skills are you developing during your international experiences? As our country continues to become more diversified and the job market becomes more global, bi- or multilingualism will continue to be a skill that can set you apart. But even if you haven't had the chance to learn another language, you can highlight the specific ways you may be learning how to communicate differently within your host country's unique culture and lingo.

Check out our *Guide to Transferable Skills* for more information about the types of transferable skills that employers look for.

What career development opportunities are available?

Network, network, network! Keep track of people you meet abroad include names, contact information, where you met, what they do, etc.

Take advantage of opportunities to learn about the work culture, local economy, and the job market from your host family and the friends you make during your time abroad.

Do more research on your field in the country you are visiting. Informational interviews, job shadowing, and site visits at local companies are all ways to help you learn about your field in the local country.

Investigate the typical job search process. Types of skills that employers tend to look for, possible costs related to your future job search, and work visa regulations for your country of interest.

Use your résumé and interview to highlight the various skills you are developing during your study abroad experience. Check out our *Guide to Résumés* and *Guide to Interviewing* for more information about how to develop a résumé and interviewing responses that incorporate your experiences from an international experience.

Stay connected and continue to build relationships with your newly made contacts both locally and abroad. Be sure to update the people you met abroad about your career plans on a regular basis. They may have useful suggestions or may know about specific opportunities in your area of interest.

Did You Know...

Skills such as communication, problem-solving, leadership, and diversity and inclusion are some of the top skills employers look for when hiring, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Working abroad stands out: highlighting examples of how you utilize these skills while abroad will give you an advantage.

RESOURCES

GOINGGLOBAL

<https://mizzoucareertools.campuscareerinnovations.com/resources/goingglobal/>

- Career Guides for Countries and USA Cities
- Corporate profiles, internship and job listings
- Insider tips on job search, employment trends, work permit regulations, salary ranges, cost of living data, and more

GO ABROAD

www.goabroad.com

- Search academic, volunteer, intern, and teach opportunities abroad
- Central location for many agencies to post opportunities
- Search by location and type of program

MU INTERNATIONAL CENTER

<https://international.missouri.edu>

- Connect with Mizzou resources about international travel, programs, and more
- Get health and safety tips
- Reach out to an advisor for recommendations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

<https://careers.state.gov/>

- Find travel information for passports, visas, and travel advisories
- Find exchange programs in academic, cultural, sports and professional areas

MIZZOU CAREER TOOLS

www.career.missouri.edu > Resources

- Customized career resources for all topics
- Filter on "International" to find top links and handouts
- Also includes filtering on industry, people and alternate post grad options

HIREMIZZOUTIGERS.COM

<https://www.HireMizzouTigers.com>

- HireMizzouTigers.com, powered by Handshake, is exclusively for MU students and alums.
- Upload your documents and complete your profile to search jobs and internships
- RSVP to events, fairs, and interviews

LINKEDIN

www.Linkedin.com

- Top professional networking site in the world
- Research employers and professionals in your destination country
- Find and connect with Mizzou alumni
- Keep up to date with industry trends, join groups, and more



next steps:

Talk with a Career Specialist for one-on-one assistance: <https://career.missouri.edu/connect>
Check out more resources at <https://career.missouri.edu> > Resources tab