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Walk-in Advising Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.
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Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/csustudyabroad
Re-entry for me was more of a cultural shock then arriving in Italy. Returning to America was quite a shock and it took me a couple of weeks to not only adjust to the vast time difference, but the huge cultural difference as well.

– Tyler, Italy, Spring
Welcome back to the United States! We hope you had a wonderful experience studying and living in another country. This handbook is designed to help you adapt to life back in the United States and on campus. Read on for information related to re-entry adaptation, staying involved in the international community, and preparing your résumé for potential international careers.

Many students return to campus with a large array of feelings about their time abroad as well as their return to the U.S. It is not uncommon for students to feel transformed, but also to not know what to do with these new perspectives or emotions. We hope that this guide can help you to channel whatever you may be feeling into new ways to get involved at CSU, to stay connected to your international interests, and to discover more ways to go abroad in the future.

We hope you have a positive transition and continue your international exploration through activities here or abroad. If you have any questions or want to stay involved with international activities or students at CSU, please let us know.

We hope your time abroad was only one of the first experiences in an internationally engaged life!

The Study Abroad Team
Office of International Programs
Colorado State University
10 To Do’s for Returning Home

Take time to reflect on your experience:
Think about how you may have changed from your experience, what friends and family seem to understand and not understand, and what you learned about yourself.

Prepare a one minute, five minute and ten minute response to “How was your trip?”:
Recognize that many people will ask about your study abroad experience but may not want to sit down for an hour to talk about it. Think of highlights or learning moments you could share in a quick conversation.

Write about your Experience:
You want to share but no one will listen? Write about your experience either to keep for yourself or to publish. There are many websites looking for returned student input to encourage other students to study abroad.

Be ready for challenges with returning home:
Many returned study abroad students notice family and friends do not seem to be interested in the study abroad experience. Also, returned students can be critical of their home country and feel frustrated because people are uninterested in looking at issues from a different point of view.

Come to the Returned Study Abroad Student Events:
This is a celebration that CSU Study Abroad puts on for returned students where you can go beyond the two minute explanation of your experience. It is a great space to share and reflect on your experience.

Volunteer with CSU Study Abroad:
Help us encourage more students to participate in study abroad by volunteering with us. You can help with the Study Abroad Fair, student panel presentations, writing a piece for Today@Colostate, or contributing your talents and skills as you see fit.

Get involved internationally on campus:
There are lots of opportunities through student groups like Students for Study Abroad and others, conversation partners, Friday Afternoon Clubs at the International House, Cultural Mentors or Study Abroad Peer Advisors in the Office of International Programs.

Stay involved internationally after graduation:
There are many ways to continue international experiences beyond graduation, whether it a short-term work experience, internship or volunteer placement abroad, or a volunteer placement with local refugee assistance groups, a language meet-up group, or a visit to an international museum exhibit.

Incorporate new skills into your résumé and future job search:
Many students incorporate what they have learned abroad into their résumés, responses to interview questions, and even future career. Skills may be hard skills like language or research or soft skills like adaptability, independence, and confidence in new situations. The CSU Career Center regularly has a great workshop addressing your skills and interests from study abroad.

Research how your future career can be internationalized:
Many businesses have international partners or are international themselves. International educators work with students and educators that participate in exchange opportunities around the world. Researchers have international field sites. Be creative.
The biggest culture shock I experienced was when I returned to the U.S. I was depressed, bored out of my mind, and homesick for London. I am still dealing with this and I do not think there is anything anyone can do to avoid this process.

– Sarah, Spring, London, Chelsea College of Art and Design
Defining Reverse Cultural Adaptation

The unsettled feeling that can accompany one’s return from abroad is reverse cultural adaptation or what some refer to as “reverse culture shock.” It is a very common reaction for students coming home from studying abroad. Feelings can range from the sense that nobody understands how you have changed to feeling panicked that you will lose part of your identity if you do not have an outlet to pursue the new interests that were sparked abroad. Your own reactions to reintegrating to life in the U.S. may vary from your friends.

According to professionals in the field of International Education, 85 percent of people returning home have some kind of re-entry experience, and of those, 15 percent have more serious difficulties adapting to their return. If you are having difficulty with your return, think back to the adjustments you made to succeed while you were abroad. These same skills can help you in coming home. Remember, there were several phases that characterize cultural adjustment, the euphoria and amazement of the culture, criticism and sometimes frustration, and general acceptance and understanding of the new culture. The same feelings may occur upon return home.

Coping Strategies for Returning Home

The coping skills and strategies that were successful in helping you adjust to your overseas culture will be just as helpful in making the return home:

• Get involved
• Identify a support group of other study abroad students
• Suspend judgment of others
• Keep a journal of your observations
• Keep your sense of humor

Coping with Reverse Cultural Adaptation

Many of the feelings you may experience stem from the change you have undergone and the ambiguity about how the new, changed “you” fits into your old life. First of all, it is important to remember that change is a positive thing. You have new ideas and insights giving you a better sense of yourself. The trick is to figure out how to incorporate your new perspectives into your life on your home campus. There are several things you can do to feel comfortable once again in the U.S. while still retaining new knowledge and perspectives. First, do not consider study abroad a singular experience; instead, look at it as the start of a lifetime of international experiences. Second, find ways to continue pursuing newfound interests. Make the most of the resources that exist for you on your home campus and in your local community.

Signs of Reverse Cultural Adaptation

• Restlessness
• Rootlessness
• Boredom
• Depression
• Uncertainty, confusion about the future
• Isolation, wanting to be alone
• Reverse homesickness: missing the people, places, attitudes or lifestyles of your host country
• Changes in life goals and priorities
• Negativity or intolerance towards the U.S., including American behavior, attitudes, customs, and common social practices
Stay Involved Internationally Upon Return

- **Take a language class** to maintain your language proficiency or ask other faculty with foreign language skills if you can conduct your research and write your papers in a foreign language.
- **Participate in a language table** where people join to dine and converse in the language you learned. If there is not one, start a new language group!
- **Find out about being a tutor** for students who need help in elementary or intermediate language courses.
- **Attend the international lecture series** programs and other presentations on international affairs.
- **Volunteer to lead conversation groups** through the CSU INTO English program or classes for community members who speak English as a second language.
- **Host an international dinner party.**
- **Apply to be a Study Abroad Peer Advisor or a Cultural Mentor** for new international students.
- **Submit your photos for “Images of the World” photo contest** through CSU Study Abroad or nationally (see details presented later in this guide).
- **Submit original writing you did while abroad** to be published in your campus or community newspapers or to national magazines (print or web).
- **Stop by and talk with CSU study abroad advisors** about your experience. We love to hear about your experiences and see your photos.
- **Recruit and prepare new study abroad students** by helping with the Study Abroad Fair, pre-departure orientation, or mentoring students about to depart.
- **Join a student group** with an international focus (i.e. Students for Study Abroad, Global Connections, International Justice Mission, etc.).
- **Read newspapers or watch the news** in the language of your host country.
- **Check community listings for international groups** around your community (e.g. Rotary International)
- **Reminisce by reading the Colorado State Rams Abroad blog** that compiles CSU students’ blog posts from around the world.
- **Check out foreign films.**
- **Visit the “What’s up with Culture” website** and take some of the reflection and skills assessment inventories.
- **Engage in conversation and dialogue with others about your experience.**
- **Correspond with friends and family from your host country.**
- **Complete a returnee survey/evaluation** for CSU Study Abroad. Your thoughts about your program and site are very important, and your comments will help students trying to select a program.
- **Mentor incoming exchange students** through the Exchange Student Mentor Program.
- **Rekindle the spirit of adventure you had abroad. Explore home!**

Share your Experiences

As a returned study abroad student, there are many ways for you to share your experiences with others. Publishing them is not only beneficial for the reader but great experience for you and your résumé. Keep in mind that some organizations and publishers pay for submissions, while others do not. There are also a variety of photos and writing contests that offer prizes. The following information is taken from the websites of the highlighted organizations.

**Contests through CSU Study Abroad or your Program Provider**

CSU Study Abroad holds an annual “Images of the World” photo contest for recently returned study abroad students. Submissions are usually due early in the calendar year.

Many program providers host their own photo contests specifically for their returned students. Several also accept written articles for their website or newsletters. Check the alumni section of your program provider or study abroad office’s website to see what is available to you.

**Local Newspapers**

Write up your stories and submit them to local papers. Some of the papers in the area are listed below. Media outlets are listed on [AllNewspapers.com].
Magazines and Online Publications

**Abroad View** encourages study abroad and international students to submit to the **Abroad View** website at any time. **Abroad View** welcomes first-person articles, journalistic features, research findings, commentaries, creative writing, poetry, reviews, opinion pieces, email excerpts, blogs, photos, and artwork. Submissions guidelines and writing tips are available.

[http://www.abroadview.org/webzine/index.htm](http://www.abroadview.org/webzine/index.htm)

**Glimpse Magazine** is a space for long-form travel writing that attempts to move beyond the facile, the superficial, and the descriptive to get at the myriad complexities of travel; at its capacity to spur curiosity, challenge entrenched ways of seeing, trouble complacency, and create empathy across vast cultural and physical distances. **Glimpse** is where emerging writers, journalists, photographers, and filmmakers can find editorial support and funding to develop their storytelling voices, skills, and interests. Each fall and spring, **Glimpse** selects ten correspondents. These correspondents are writers, photographers, and/or filmmakers with an exceptional eye for unique, under-reported, and compelling stories told with great detail and even greater humility.

[http://glimpse.org](http://glimpse.org)

**Transitions Abroad** website was developed out of the similarly-titled magazine to reflect the depth and quality of the articles, programs, best resources, and links gathered and updated over the past 35+ years since Transitions Abroad magazine was founded. The month webzine (TAzine) continues to expand on the content once found in the magazine.

[http://www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

**Journeywoman.com** Travel Resource Website seeks to inspire females to travel safely and to connect women travelers worldwide. They publish female-centered travel experience articles. Each published article becomes eligible for their Annual Journeywoman Travel Writing Competition.

[http://www.journeywoman.com](http://www.journeywoman.com)

**Travelmag** is an online travel publication based in the UK. They look for tales of travel well beyond the guidebook routes, illuminating little-known corners of the globe and, occasionally, revealing a bit about themselves as well. Sometimes their writers are experienced journalists; others are starting out travel writing, learning the craft and looking for markets for their travel stories.

[http://www.travelmag.co.uk](http://www.travelmag.co.uk)

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**Did you know?**

Colorado State University’s Office of International Programs hosts a blog called **Global Connections**? All members of the CSU community are welcome to submit their stories.

[http://csuglobalconnections.wordpress.com](http://csuglobalconnections.wordpress.com)
PUT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO WORK
ADDING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE TO YOUR RESUMÉ AND JOB SEARCH
Tips for Writing a Cover Letter

• Make sure to tie your Study Abroad experience into your career objectives
• Make sure your experience fits in with the qualifications of the company and who they are seeking as an employee
• Briefly mention how the experience will help fulfill the overall goals of the company

Tips for a Job Interview

The employer could use your experience as an interview question. Highlight your personal growth and talk specifically about where you went and what you learned.

Be sure to:
• Keep it brief
• Keep it to the point
• Keep it relevant in the context of the question
• Incorporate the experience when highlighting an important quality you possess or how the experience makes you the best candidate

Skills Gained from the Experience

• Time Management
• Foreign Language Skills
• Commitment
• Risk Taking
• Motivation and Initiative
• Drive
• Handling Stress
• Independence
• Responsibility
• Appreciation for Diversity & Culture
• Dedication
• Self-motivation
• Energy
• Flexibility
• Problem Solving

CSU Career Center Services

• Major and Career Exploration
• Résumé Assistance and Critiques
• Mock Interviews
• Career Workshops, Events, and Programming
• Career Fairs
• Connection Events with Employers
• On-Campus Interviews with Employers

did you know?

The CSU Career Center has a web resource called Going Global that is a comprehensive resource for working abroad. To access Going Global visit: http://www.career.colostate.edu/CareerRAM.aspx and sign-in using your CSU eID and ePassword.
Sample Résumé

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree in English
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
May 20xx
GPA 3.25/4.0; Major GPA 3.6/4.0

Minor: Spanish

Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain, Spring 20xx
Study abroad program with a focus on Spanish language and culture
Gained reading, writing, and speaking proficiency in Spanish

Experience Section: If you had an internship while studying abroad include it as part of the experience section. If you did not have an internship while studying abroad, consider including a specific aspect of your study abroad experience under the experience section.

EXPERIENCE

Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain, Spring 20xx
Intern/Teacher Assistant
- Tutored Spanish students studying English
- Interacted with students both in and out of classroom to help improve English speaking and reading skills
- Helped implement a mentor program for students to practice English speaking skills

Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain, Spring 20xx
Study Abroad
- Adapted quickly to Spanish culture by living with a host family
- Improved verbal and written Spanish communication to intermediate proficiency
- Completed 15 credits of coursework entirely in Spanish

ACTIVITIES/AWARDS

- Dean’s List, 20xx - 20xx
- Reading volunteer for Spanish elementary students while studying abroad, Spring 20xx
- Cans Around the Oval Volunteer, 20xx - 20xx
- Green and Gold scholarship recipient, 20xx - 20xx
- Recipient of Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad, Spring 20xx
- Scholarship panelist for Gilman Scholarship, Fall 20xx, Spring 20xx
14 Ram’s Way  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
October 10, 20XX

Mr./Ms./Dr.(Insert Employer Name)  
Crystal Media Group  
Regional Sales Manager  
409 East Virginia Avenue  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Dear Mr./Ms./Dr.(Insert Employer Name):

I’m writing in regard to the Account Executive position that was listed with the Colorado State University Career Center. In conducting research on Crystal Media Group, I was impressed by the broad range of information that your publications provide, from historical and economical information to relocation guides. I’m very interested in working for a company that has such an outstanding record of customer service while being in the top 5% in the nation for this field. After reading through the description of the successful candidate, I am positive I possess all of the qualities you are seeking in an Account Executive.

As you can see from my resume, I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from Colorado State University, with my specialty being group presentations. Whether it was reciting historical speeches in front of a class or delivering project updates to a professor in a mock boardroom setting, I always took the initiative on group projects to ensure the assignment was done properly and on time. Such confidence in public speaking led quite naturally to a career in sales. My high sales figures while at Wilson Direct Marketing demonstrate my ability to adapt to various customer needs. I learned a great deal about persuasion, customer service, and multiple sales techniques from this experience.

In addition to my education and work experience, I have many skills that will enable me to be an excellent addition to the sales team at Crystal Media Group. I’m very interested in traveling and relocating to a new city. My independence and self motivation to go out and seek new business are two more qualities that are crucial to the field of sales. You will find that I am a motivated and enthusiastic team player who enjoys the challenges of reaching sales goals.

I’m very interested in meeting you and learning more about this position. I am available for interviewing at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at student@colostate.edu or leave a message at (720) 555-5555 to arrange a meeting time. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
(4 spaces)

Your Name (Typed)  
Enclosure

---

Heading  
Your Address  
Date  
Employer Name & Title  
Employer Address

Paragraph 1  
State the position applying for, how you found the position (referral names are great), and why you would want to work for this company.

Paragraph 2  
Discuss your experiences and skills directly relating to their job description - address the requirements listed.

Paragraph 3  
State your personal attributes (personality) and how they relate to the job.

Paragraph 4  
Restate your interest in the position, request an interview and provide follow-up contact information. Don’t forget to thank them for their time.

Final Note  
SIGN your letter, and include “Enclosure or Attachment” if you have other documents for the employer to look at.
CAUGHT THE TRAVEL BUG?
OPTIONS FOR GOING ABROAD AGAIN

Sounds so cliche, but absolutely hands down, best experience of my life. I also applied for a job in France this summer and got it, and therefore extended my time here by three months. I would recommend doing this.

– Julia, Salzburg, Austria
There are a variety of ways to go abroad again after you have graduated. Even on a tight budget, work, volunteer, and independent study opportunities are readily available to you.

What Matters Most?

Rank the following statements (1 = most important; 5 = least important) according to what you deem most important in planning to go abroad again after graduation:

***Goals:*** What do you hope to gain from the experience? Do you want to network to create career connections? Do you want to pursue further education? Do you want to volunteer? How will the experience relate to longer-term academic or career goals?

***Location:*** Where do you prefer to go? Are you flexible?

***Finances:*** Can you support yourself financially? How important is it to be paid? What financial responsibilities do you have to complete while abroad?

***Language:*** Would you like to utilize any language skills? Are you proficient enough to work in that language?

***Length of Stay:*** How long would you like to stay abroad? Are you willing to sign a year to two year contract? Are you looking for a short term experience?

***Academic credit/experience?*** Would you like to take courses while abroad? Or work toward a certificate or degree? Will it be recognized in the U.S.? Do you prefer not to pursue an academic experience but look for an internship or work? What type of work are you able to pursue abroad?

My Goals for Going Abroad Again

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

4. __________________________________________

5. __________________________________________

6. __________________________________________
Exploring Options for Going Abroad Again

Some options to go abroad again overlap; for example, volunteer programs may also be interpreted as working abroad. This should be a starting point to find out more about the different possibilities available.

Study Abroad

While you already have studied abroad, keep in mind that CSU allows you to study abroad for two semesters and unlimited summers and winter breaks. Many students take advantage of this! If this is still a possibility for you as an undergraduate, then you will be working with CSU Study Abroad in the Office of International Programs again. However, if you are no longer an undergraduate, there are other ways to study abroad – such as studying abroad for or during a graduate degree program.

Studying Abroad While in U.S. Graduate School

More and more universities are offering study abroad opportunities for graduate students. Some U.S. universities even have campuses in other countries, so you are earning a U.S. degree in Dubai or Madrid for example. This can be one of your criteria as you start your search for the right graduate program for you.

Another option is to plan to do research for your degree abroad. You can research the international engagement of the department where your graduate program will be housed as you select possible programs. Be sure to ask graduate school recruiters about opportunities to intern, study, or research abroad.

Graduate School Abroad

Do you plan to pursue a graduate or professional degree after graduation? There are several things to consider in the application process. First, pinpoint what you want to study. Next, determine which schools offer the best programs. Your academic advisor, professors, and the CSU Career Center may help you in identifying programs that match your interests and goals. They can also help you start the application process.

You may have to take entry exams, which are offered every few months. These tests may not be required by schools overseas, but it is still a good idea to take them now while your schooling is fresh just in case your plans change to include a graduate program in the U.S. To find out when your particular test is being offered, stop by the CSU Testing Center. Also, the Princeton Review keeps information on graduate school exams.

There are several ways to internationalize your graduate degree. However, do keep funding in mind as you apply to programs abroad because U.S. federal financial aid generally does not always transfer to international institutions. There are different scholarships, fellowships, and other funding sources available that we cover in a later section.

Additional Graduate Programs and Search Engines

- Association of Professional Schools in International Affairs
- Comparative and International Education Society
- Peterson’s Higher Ed Guides
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
- GradSchools.com
Resources for International Study and Fellowships

The following is a partial list of scholarships, fellowships and grants that provide funding for graduate study abroad. More information on these and other graduate fellowships may be available through the Office of International Programs or their direct websites.

Fulbright Scholarship
The Fulbright Program offers grants to study, teach, and conduct research for U.S. citizens going abroad and non-U.S. citizens to coming to the United States. At CSU, contact the Office of International Programs for more information or visit the Fulbright Scholarship website directly. (http://fulbright.state.gov/)

David L. Boren Awards
Boren Scholarships and Fellowships provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. (http://www.borenawards.org/)

Marshall Scholarship
Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the United Kingdom. Up to forty Scholars are selected each year to study at graduate level at a UK institution in any field of study. As future leaders with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their governments and their institutions.

The George J. Mitchell Scholarship
The Mitchell Scholars Program, named to honor former U.S. Senator George Mitchell’s pivotal contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process, is designed to introduce and connect generations of future American leaders to the island of Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to community and public service. Up to twelve Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 are chosen annually for one year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Applicants are judged on three criteria: scholarship, leadership, and a sustained commitment to community and public service. (http://us-irelandalliance.org/)

Rhodes Scholarship
The Rhodes Scholarships are the oldest and most celebrated international fellowship awards in the world. Each year 32 young Americans are selected as Rhodes Scholars. Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good, and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead. The Rhodes Trust, a British charity established to honor the will and bequest of Cecil J. Rhodes, provides full financial support for Rhodes Scholars to pursue degrees at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. (http://www.rhodesscholar.org/)

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award
The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award provides a $10,000 stipend for a graduating college senior to pursue one year of public service anywhere in the world. The award allows recipients to engage in a meaningful public service activity for one year before proceeding on to graduate school or a career. To apply, develop a proposal for public service in the U.S. or abroad. The proposal may encompass any activity that furthers the public good. It can be undertaken by yourself alone or by working through established charitable, religious, educational, governmental, or other public service organizations. (http://www.nationalgridus.com/huntington.asp)

The Ford Foundation
The Ford Foundation grant making focuses on reducing poverty and injustice; promoting democratic values; and advancing human knowledge, creativity, and achievement. A limited number of grants are made to individuals, and grants are generally restricted to fellowships for advanced study. The foundation does not award undergraduate scholarships or make grants for purely personal needs. (http://www.fordfound.org/)

W.K. Kellogg Foundation
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has grants for projects in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southern Africa. Visit the section on International Projects for more information. (http://www.wkkf.org/)

MacArthur Foundation
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. International programs focus on international issues, including human rights and international justice, peace and security, conservation and sustainable development, higher education in Nigeria and Russia, migration, and population and reproductive health. (http://www.macfound.org/)
Work, Internship, Volunteer Abroad

There are lots of ways to find internships abroad. Just like at home, some internships pay, others do not, and some even require you to pay for the arrangements of the internship. You may find leads on internships abroad through CSU Study Abroad or the CSU Career Center.

**CSU Study Abroad:** CSU Study Abroad works with arranged internships, some of which may have academic credit as part of the internship program. Many internship programs through CSU Study Abroad are through our own relationships or our affiliate partners. Often students have to pay to participate. For current students, there is a dedicated staff member on the CSU Study Abroad team who works with research, internship, and service learning opportunities.

**The CSU Career Center:** Through the CSU Career Center, graduating students and alumni, as well as current students, can find more support in finding viable international internships. The CSU Career Center has added Going Global to their services. This is a great resource for a targeted international internship search.

**Short-Term Work Abroad**

Short-term work abroad is defined as less than one year. Typically, these opportunities can be during the summer. Short-term work abroad often involves working in an unskilled job, where you can earn enough to cover your food, lodging, and day-to-day living expenses. This type of job probably will not pay enough to cover air transportation, but it may help provide some extra money for travel after you leave your job. Short-term work experiences include positions such as au pairs, farm workers, typists, waitpersons, and youth camp leaders.

If you are a full-time student or a recent graduate, the work abroad programs through the British Universities North American Club (BUNAC) or the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) are some of the easiest ways for you to secure legal employment overseas. These organizations help you navigate the immigration regulations. No special skills are required, but you must speak the language of the country. BUNAC and CIEE do not find employment for you, but if you are resourceful and willing to be flexible in the type of job that you do, you should be able to find a position within a week or two.

**Did you know?**

The CSU Study Abroad website has pages dedicated to Research or Intern Abroad, Service Learning or Volunteer Abroad, Teach Abroad, and Short-Term Work Abroad that has links to many different sources that can provide insights of how to make the dream a reality.
Teaching English Abroad

There are many opportunities to teach English abroad through established programs. Most programs prefer a commitment of one academic year, though some offer summer or semester possibilities. Generally, a bachelor’s degree is required, although in most cases you do not need to be an English major. Organizations are more interested in your ability to speak native and fluent English. Volunteer and paid teaching opportunities can be found throughout the world.

Service Learning or Volunteer Abroad

Restoration projects, literacy campaigns, and teaching are just a few examples of the many different volunteer programs abroad. Some programs charge a fee and provide services such as insurance coverage, meals, and even housing. It may sound strange to pay to volunteer, but it sometimes ensures that your experience will be what you are hoping it will be. It also supports the continuation of the project, materials needed, and the structure in place to ensure a good program. Some opportunities provide free room and board in exchange for your work, and others even pay a small stipend. Volunteer work opportunities may range from a few weeks long to two or three years in duration. If you are interested in development work, want to meet other foreigners and host nationals, and do not mind living as the locals do, you may want to consider this type of program.
“I WANT YOUR JOB!”
TIPS FOR FINDING AN INTERNATIONALLY-FOCUSED CAREER

“I have a sort of directional crisis as to where I want to go from here.”

– Student who studied in Japan
How to Find a Job in International Education

Many students who study abroad often want to find ways to work in jobs that are internationally focused. This may be working in international education, working internationally, or working in multinational companies.

International Education

What is International Education?

International educators work in a variety of different areas. Generally, they can be categorized into education abroad, international student services, teaching and learning, and teaching English as a foreign or second language. International educators work at a university, a community college, and/or other educational institutions to promote the internationalization of the education of those they serve. There are many companies and organizations that support the work done on campuses.

Qualifications of International Educators

Most international educators have had some significant international experience, whether it be a study abroad, Peace Corps services, international internship, international teaching, or any other three month or longer international experience. Additionally, many jobs in international education have language fluency as one of the qualifications for the job. Finally, this is a small field and can sometimes be difficult to break into. It is great to seek out ways to gain experience while still in school, such as working as a peer advisor in study abroad, a cultural mentor with international student services, or other opportunities. These experiences help strengthen your knowledge of the field of international education as you start applying and interviewing. This will make you a stronger candidate.

Some other common pieces in job qualifications for international educators are graduate degrees in international education, student affairs, international studies, or other related fields. You can often find entry level positions that require a bachelor’s degree, but as you progress in the field, more education is often required. It can help if you do an internship or practicum with the international office during a graduate program.

Great skills to have that are often sought out in employees are desktop publishing, website design and maintenance, and database use. Some things to think about as you are entering the field of international education are to be flexible about what you are willing to do and where you might live, be proactive, and send in your résumé to organizations you think you would like to work for even if they have not posted a job – there may be opportunities that are not yet posted. Do your research! A great resource is the Career Center section of the NAFSA: Association for International for International Educators. (www.nafsa.org)
What are the positions available?

There are other jobs that are available in international education. They may be listed under the following job titles:

- Program coordinator/advisor/director
- Overseas resident director/coordinator
- Webmaster or database manager
- Immigration specialist
- International student advisor
- Teacher/instructor
- Program specialist for international student programming
- Health and safety specialist
- Marketing or external relations manager/director
- Academic director
- Credit transfer evaluator
- Budget manager/director
- In some smaller office, one person is responsible for most or all of these duties!

Do your research!

Just like with all careers, networking and information interviews are great ways to start learning about the field of international education. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the professional organization for International Education. They offer conferences, resources on their website along with a Career Search, and much more. The Forum on Education Abroad (http://www.forumea.org/) is a professional network specific to Education Abroad. Another resource is the CSU Study Abroad team. Share with your study abroad coordinator that you are interested in working in the field. Study abroad is a very well-connected field; many advisors know other colleagues all across the country and are familiar with many other study abroad offices, organizations, and programs. There are lots of resources on the sites listed online that offer information for working in international education.

If you have the right background and skills set, and are flexible about where you work, with some research and networking, chances are good that you will find a position in the area of international education that is right for you!

International Careers

Things to consider as you look into an international career are to identify your areas of interest and the region you are interested in along with where you can be flexible. If you are focused on a certain career or field, one way to start
exploring your options is to conduct informational interviews. It helps to learn about the job, the field, and ways to get a job. It also helps to make contacts in the field that could lead to jobs in the future! You can use professional organizations and conferences to start creating a network of contacts and learn more about the field. Perhaps the professional organization even posts job openings. Other great resources are journals, magazines, and other news sources that address issues in the field or region you are interested in. It will help in job interviews to know hot topics and current trends in the field.

If you are focused on a certain geographical region, work on your foreign language skills required for that region. Research local organizations that are working on projects in your preferred region. Develop expertise in the location by reading, researching, and interviewing people. Are there any immigrant groups or expatriate groups from that country/region in your local area? Could you connect with these groups?

If your goal is to go abroad again, and you are open about where, how, and when, then you may spend a lot of time researching. Do not let yourself get overwhelmed – remember moderation and keep a positive attitude. Create a network of contacts with expertise in an area you are interested in. Continue to build your experiences here, so that your background, experience, and résumé will help you take advantage of the opportunities you are interested in.

This leads to the idea of getting involved locally. Look for organizations that address your interests, like student clubs and organizations, volunteer placements or internships with local organizations, professors who have experiences in the field or the area abroad you are interested in, international students or immigrants living in your area, and alumni networks through CSU or your study abroad program.

Today, most careers can easily include an international focus or international opportunities. For example, if you are interested in health and medicine, you could volunteer or work with a number of organizations that run public health projects abroad. If you are interested in being a teacher, look into teacher exchanges or teaching jobs abroad.

Many job search engines will have international postings. The internet is also a great way to find opportunities. Do not use it as your only tool, as the U.S. has many more web resources than some countries. Use what you have learned from networking to continue your search effectively. Many careers have an international focus but are based here in the U.S.

**Good Luck!**