

The top corners of the slide feature decorative floral motifs. On the left, there is a cluster of light green, multi-petaled flowers. On the right, there is a single, larger light green flower with several distinct petals. The background is a textured, golden-brown color.

MN *Coming Home* Conference

Working, Teaching, & Volunteering Abroad

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden



Agenda

- ☞ Why go abroad?
- ☞ Steps to Going Abroad Again
- ☞ Short Term Work Abroad
- ☞ Teaching English Abroad
- ☞ Volunteer Abroad
- ☞ Resources
- ☞ Questions?

Why Work, Intern, Teach English Abroad?

- ❧ Develop **intercultural communication** skills
- ❧ Enhance **interpersonal** skills
- ❧ **Problem-solve** professional situations in an intercultural context
- ❧ Enhance **critical thinking** skills
- ❧ Develop the ability to deal with **ambiguity**
- ❧ Become more **independent**
- ❧ Develop the ability to effectively **work across cultures**
- ❧ Learn about **different organizational structures** and how culture impacts that structure
- ❧ Improve **language skills**
- ❧ **Network** with professionals in your area of study
- ❧ **Stand out from the pack**: develop interesting stories and examples to share with future employers

BECAUSE IT'S FUN!!!



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STEPS TO GOING ABROAD AGAIN

❧ Develop your goals

- ❧ What do you hope to learn/gain from this experience?

❧ Assess yourself

- ❧ Level of independence
- ❧ Second language skills
- ❧ Experience/skills
- ❧ Flexibility

❧ Reassess goals, if necessary

❧ Take a look at your finances

❧ RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

❧ Gain necessary experience!!!



WORK ABROAD

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Short-Term Work Abroad: Visa Granting Organizations

❧ **BUNAC:** Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand

❧ **Interexchange:** Australia, New Zealand

❧ **USIT:** Ireland

❧ Participants...

❧ must be independent, motivated, & flexible

❧ usually find job within 2 weeks of arrival

❧ are free to job hunt in any field

❧ usually find a job when they arrive--doesn't hurt to research ahead of time too

❧ typically work in service industry (hotels, pubs, restaurants), admin. work, can utilize temp. services

❧ may find more career-related work can be found with more research and persistence

Short-Term Work Abroad: Visa & Job Placement Organizations

- ❧ **AIDE:** Australia, England (offers TE programs too)
- ❧ **CEI-Club des 4 Vents:** France
- ❧ **Interexchange:** France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain
(*aupair* placements)

- ❧ Provides more services & structure
- ❧ You'll pay more for these services!
- ❧ Peace of mind: you'll have a job waiting for you!
- ❧ Jobs are usually in limited fields
 - ❧ Teaching English, *aupair*/nanny, farm work, admin. work, service industry
- ❧ Consider volunteering in career field

Fees

☞ Visa granting organizations:

- ☞ (BUNAC, Interexchange & USIT) \$200-\$940 + cost of mandatory int'l ins.
 - ☞ Covers visa fee & processing
 - ☞ Orientation, 1 night accommodation in hostel
 - ☞ Use of onsite Resource Center

☞ Placement organizations:

- ☞ (AIDE, CEI, Interexchange) \$494-\$2,300
- ☞ Typically includes:
 - ☞ Visa fee & processing
 - ☞ Work placement
 - ☞ Accommodation advice or placement
 - ☞ Orientation
 - ☞ Onsite support



Duration

⌘ Depends on location

⌘ Each government decides terms of work
visa

⌘ 3 months – 12 months



Eligibility Requirements

☞ Depends on location

- ☞ Each government decides terms of work visa

☞ Various requirements:

- ☞ Age
- ☞ Student status
- ☞ Language
- ☞ U.S. citizen
- ☞ Previous experience (childcare)

Work Abroad

- ☞ “I don’t want to *just* teach English or baby-sit.”
- ☞ Frame your experience and take advantage of the opportunity
 - ☞ Way to be abroad and **make contacts**
 - ☞ Informational interviews
 - ☞ Who are your students/host parents?
 - ☞ Learn a second language
 - ☞ Learn about the culture
 - ☞ Learn the necessary skills to work with an international focus here in the states first

Teaching English Abroad



☞ “An ability to teach the English language is the most globally mobile skill there is.”

☞ Susan Griffith, author of Teaching English Abroad



How do I find a teaching English placement?

❧ Teaching Placement Programs

❧ Government Sponsored Programs

❧ Independently applying to a private school

Teaching Placement Programs

- ❧ Provide more structure and support
 - ❧ May cover visa assistance, orientation, guaranteed placement, onsite staff/contact, room and board, int'l health insurance
- ❧ Services cost money! Most programs charge a program fee.
 - ❧ Prices vary: deposit--\$\$\$\$
- ❧ Requirements vary: usually 4 year degree (for longer term), native English speaker
- ❧ Benefits vary: some may provide stipend, meals, professional development opportunities
- ❧ Duration: varies, usually 3-18 months

Examples of Teaching Placement Programs

- ❧ **AIDE**: Argentina, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Spain
- ❧ **CIEE**: Chile, China, South Korea, Spain, Thailand
- ❧ **InterExchange**: Chile, China, France, Ghana, Spain, Thailand
- ❧ **Princeton in Asia**: Various Asian countries (East, SE, Central)
- ❧ **WorldTeach**: Opportunities in more than 10 countries; participants can teach other subjects too
- ❧ Many more placement programs exist!

Government Sponsored Programs

- ☞ More extensive/selective application process
- ☞ Known for their reputation
- ☞ Wages vary: some are volunteer, some you can make enough to save/travel
- ☞ Duration varies: usually 3 months-1 year contract
- ☞ Structured/Supportive: varies: teachers usually receive housing, orientation/training, paid vacation, health insurance, return flight upon completion of contract, etc.
- ☞ More focused on cultural exchange

Examples of Government Sponsored Programs

- ☞ Czech Ministry of Education
- ☞ English Program in Korea (EPIK)
- ☞ French Embassy Teaching Assistantship Program
- ☞ Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program
- ☞ Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET)
- ☞ Language and Culture Assistants in Spain
- ☞ Peace Corps
- ☞ Wisconsin-Chiba Assistant Language Teacher Program

Independently Applying to a Private School

STEPS TO TAKE:

1. Search job posting boards (Dave's ESL Café, www.tefl.com) and research where the teaching demand is
2. Research what qualifications are needed – Do you need a TESL or TEFL certificate?

Secure job *before* going abroad

- ☞ Contact and communicate with school directly
 - ☞ Sign contract before arriving and understand what you are signing!
- ☞ USE CAUTION!
 - ☞ Cover your bases--make sure everything is legit
 - ☞ Contact current teachers, past teachers, post a discussion thread, etc.

Secure job *while* abroad

- ☞ Arrange your own transportation there!
- ☞ Have a reserve of funds in case you don't find work right away
- ☞ Ability to interview/see the school in person!
- ☞ Consider a TEFL certificate program abroad
 - ☞ Complete the certificate program while job searching

Example of Job Posting

(from www.eslcafe.com)

☞ **English to Go in San Jose Costa Rica has immediate openings for qualified ESL teachers**

☞ Teach English to employees and executives in their workplace during the week and explore Costa Rica's rainforests, volcanoes and world class beaches on the week end.

☞ Minimum requirements are:

☞ Native born, North American English speaker (preferred) Candidates from other English speaking countries will be considered based on their accent or hopefully lack of.

☞ **University Graduate** (B.A. or higher preferred)

☞ **ESL teaching certificate: CELTA, TESOL, TEFL etc/ or minimum 2 years ESL teaching experience**

☞ Able to commit to **6 months or 1 year** (minimum 6 month commitment)

☞ Teacher candidates should have the following characteristics: Responsible; Dependable; Personable; Dynamic; Energetic; Independent; Outgoing; Customer service, quality oriented; Professionally dressed with good personal hygiene and Financially stable

☞ **We offer:** Competitive pay, Free Spanish classes, Discount travel, we help you get a cell phone, find a place to live and set up a bank account.

☞ Although we are looking for teachers who can start immediately, we are always looking for qualified staff throughout the year. If you are interested in finding out more send a short e-mail WITHOUT attachments to teach@english2go.co.cr and you will receive our auto-responder with job details, former teacher's testimonials, and application instructions.

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TEFL & TESL Certificates: Do not expire & internationally recognized!

Hamline University, St. Paul - Intensive or semester-long course

- ☞ Can work or continue studies while doing this certificate course
- ☞ Approximately \$2900

Global Experiences

- ☞ 4-week intensive course
- ☞ Provides job placement assistance
- ☞ Choose from 19 locations all over the world
- ☞ Approximately \$1500

University of Minnesota TESL Certificate

Gain Experience Before You Go!

- ❧ Make sure this is something you want to devote time & energy to
 - ❧ Learn about teaching methodologies/building lesson plans
 - ❧ Gain confidence in front of the classroom
 - ❧ Build your resume--experience makes you a stronger candidate
-
- ❧ **Minnesota Literacy Council: ESL Tutor Pre-Service Training**
 - ❧ 12 hours (usually offered once or twice/month)
 - ❧ \$20-\$30
 - ❧ Volunteer placement in Twin Cities after completion of training
 - ❧ www.themlc.org



Volunteer Abroad



☞ “The most universal benefit of volunteering is the opportunity to learn. In some cases, the new knowledge is practical. In other cases, the learning is a process of self-discovery that may be less tangible but equally important. You may come to recognize your own emotional strength, uncover a talent you didn’t know you had, or even face your own limitations or prejudices.”

☞ How to Live your Dream of Volunteering Overseas, by Collins, DeZerega, Heckscher

Typical Volunteer Projects

- ☞ Physical labor projects
- ☞ Writing grants & admin work
- ☞ Education, Teaching & Training
- ☞ Human Rights
- ☞ Community development
- ☞ Health
- ☞ Social Work
- ☞ Micro-Enterprise, Fair Trade, Business Consulting
- ☞ Environmental Issues
- ☞ Youth, Elderly, People with Disabilities

Length of Volunteer Placements

☞ **Short term: 1-4 weeks**

- ☞ Geared towards exposing volunteers to other cultures
- ☞ Can foster solidarity w/ a community & introduce volunteers to issues of human rights & social change

☞ **Medium term: 4 weeks-6 months**

- ☞ Able to get more deeply involved w/ language, culture, community
- ☞ May be given more responsibility than short term

☞ **Long term: 6+ months**

- ☞ Opportunity for most responsibility & integration into host community
- ☞ Able to take things slowly, learn from the community & what is most helpful to them

International Volunteer Placement Organizations

- ❧ AIDE
- ❧ Amigos de las Americas
- ❧ BUNAC
- ❧ Common Hope
- ❧ Cross-Cultural Solutions
- ❧ Earthwatch Institute
- ❧ Geo Visions
- ❧ Global Citizens Network
- ❧ Global Volunteers
- ❧ InterAction
- ❧ Interexchange
- ❧ Peace Corps
- ❧ Projects Abroad
- ❧ ProWorld
- ❧ Volunteers for Peace
- ❧ World Endeavors
- ❧ WorldTeach

The Ideal Volunteer Placement Organization...

- ☞ Is **honest** about expenses, activities, & challenges
- ☞ Provides potential volunteers with contact info of past participants
- ☞ **Screens** volunteers for maturity, skills, cultural sensitivity, mental & physical health
- ☞ Provides volunteers w/ fundraising ideas
- ☞ Is **transparent** about where your program fee goes
- ☞ Provides orientation materials and preparation suggestions
- ☞ Provides **extensive onsite orientation & training**, including language training if needed
- ☞ Has staff with **long-term connections and commitment** in the community
- ☞ Places volunteers with **indigenous/local organizations** rather than initiating its own projects
- ☞ Incorporates a **sustainable development** perspective into its work
- ☞ Engages volunteers in **critical reflection**
- ☞ Helps volunteers **remain connected** with the people & organizations they volunteered with overseas
- ☞ Has **24 hour support network**

--adapted from IVPA's Principles & Practices and How to Live your Dream of Volunteering Overseas by Collins, DeZerega, Heckscher

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Work, Teach, Volunteer Abroad Resources

- ❧ www.umabroad.umn.edu/programs/wiv/index.html
 - ❧ Search the work, intern, volunteer, teach database by location or keyword
- ❧ www.dickinson.edu/career/international/backgroundinfo.html
 - ❧ Comprehensive guide to working abroad
- ❧ www.csbsju.edu/career/students/postgrad/internationaljobs.htm
 - ❧ International Job Resources for U.S. Citizens
- ❧ www.eslcafe.com
 - ❧ Dave's ESL Café: Browse teaching English job postings
- ❧ www.transitionsabroad.com/
 - ❧ Read articles by people who have worked, taught, or volunteered abroad
- ❧ <http://globalgateway.monster.com/>
 - ❧ Monster.com's international job search site
- ❧ www.thepaperboy.com/
 - ❧ Browse the classified section of newspapers from all over the world
- ❧ www.teachabroad.com
 - ❧ Job postings, info on TEFL certificates, etc.
- ❧ www.english-international.com/
 - ❧ Job searches, region-specific job market analysis

Presentation Resources

- ❧ Dickinson College Guide to International Education
 - ❧ www.dickinson.edu/career/international/backgroundinfo.html
- ❧ College of St. Benedict/St. John's University Career Services
 - ❧ www.csbsju.edu/career/default.htm
- ❧ How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas by Joseph Collins, Zahara Heckscher, and Stefano DeZerega
- ❧ IVPA's Principles & Practices
 - ❧ www.volunteerinternational.org/index-principles2.htm

Questions?

☞ GOOD LUCK!!!

☞ Check with your study abroad office or career services office for more info on work, teaching, or volunteering abroad!