

MN *Coming Home* Conference



Teaching, Working, & Volunteering Abroad

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Agenda

- ☞ Why go abroad?
- ☞ Steps
- ☞ Work Abroad (short/long term)
- ☞ 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

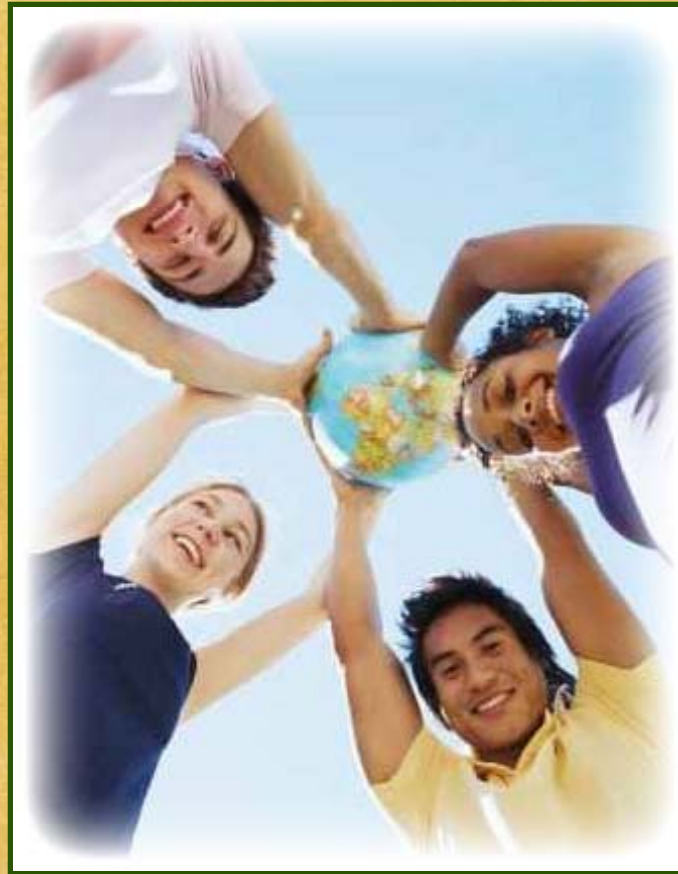
❧ **Reassess goals, if necessary**

❧ **Take a look at your finances**

❧ **RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!**

❧ **Gain necessary experience!!!**

WORK ABROAD



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REALITIES OF WORKING ABROAD

- ❧ Companies will only hire a foreign national if no one in the country is qualified for the job.
- ❧ Being approved for a work visa without sponsorship from an employer is almost impossible.
- ❧ Many Americans begin their international career **HERE** in the U.S.
- ❧ Ask yourself: “What’s more important: a prestigious career-oriented job or actually being overseas?” (i.e. am I willing to be a nanny or a hotel clerk as long as I’m overseas)

Short-Term vs. Long-Term Work Abroad

☞ **SHORT-term Work**

- ☞ EASIER to organize
 - ☞ Organized through program
- ☞ Usually not career-related
- ☞ Might be student-status/age requirements
- ☞ Short-term visa granting organizations

☞ **LONG-term Work**

- ☞ Can be DIFFICULT to organize & requires more research, perseverance, and patience
 - ☞ Organized independently
- ☞ Usually career-related
- ☞ Employer must sponsor work visa

Short-Term Work Abroad: Visa Granting Organizations

- ❧ **BUNAC:** Australia, Britain (currently suspended for 2009), Canada, Ireland, 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

❧ **Alliance Abroad:** Australia, Chile, China, England

❧ **CEI-Club des 4 Vents:** France

❧ **Interexchange:** Australia, France, Germany,
Netherlands, Spain

❧ Provides more services & structure

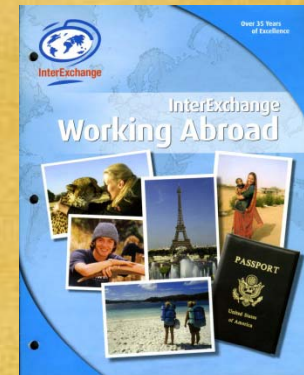
❧ You'll pay more for these services!

❧ 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



Long-Term Work Abroad: Succeeding in the International Job Market

The “Right Attitude”

- ☞ **Positive attitude**
 - ☞ Be open-minded and flexible
- ☞ **Proactive approach**
 - ☞ Set goals
- ☞ **Perseverance**
 - ☞ Keep on researchin'!
- ☞ **Patience**
 - ☞ Paying your dues may pay off in the long run
- ☞ **International Perspective**
 - ☞ How can you communicate your previous study abroad experience?
 - ☞ Are you culturally sensitive?
 - ☞ Do you have a genuine desire to work and communicate with people from other cultures?

Long-Term Work Abroad: Succeeding in the Int'l Job Market

A skill that is in demand overseas

- ❧ Most countries will only hire an overseas candidate if no one in-country can do the job...
 - ❧ So what sets YOU apart?

- ❧ Research job/skill shortages in other countries
 - ❧ Engineers, computer specialists, English teachers, development specialists, health care personnel, agriculture specialists

- ❧ Learn another language(S)!

Long-Term Work Abroad:

Succeeding in the Int'l Job Market

CONTACTS

- ☞ Current employer/internship
 - ☞ Do they have an overseas office or contacts?
 - ☞ Do they do business with companies overseas?
- ☞ Professor/Int'l TA
 - ☞ Are they doing research abroad?
 - ☞ Does your TA have professional contacts back home?
- ☞ Study abroad contacts
 - ☞ Can your internship supervisor offer you a long-term position?
 - ☞ Does your Japanese friend/host family know of an English school you can teach at?
- ☞ Neighbor's sister's cousin who works for consulting firm in Germany
 - ☞ You never know...
 - ☞ You have to start somewhere!

Long-Term Work Abroad:

Where are the Int'l Jobs?

- ☞ **Business/Banking: Fortune 500 companies**
- ☞ **Consulting firms: Accenture, Deloitte**
- ☞ **Government: Foreign Service**
- ☞ **Healthcare: Nurses, Doctors, Dental Hygiene, Public Health**
- ☞ **Public Service/Public Policy: Research Groups, City Management**
- ☞ **International Education: Teaching English, Higher Ed administration, American Int'l Schools**
- ☞ **Nonprofit and Relief/Volunteer Agencies: Brethren Volunteer Corps, CONCERN/America**
- ☞ **Technical Fields: Agriculture, Computers, Engineers**
- ☞ **Travel Industry: Airlines, Hotels, Tour Groups/Guides**

Where are the International Jobs?

HERE!

Most people start working for a company in the U.S. and then are transferred abroad!!!



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Long-Term Work Abroad

☞ “I don’t want to *just* teach English or baby-sit.”

- ☞ 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

- ❧ **Alliance Abroad:** Chile, China
- ❧ **CIEE:** Chile, China, Spain, Thailand
- ❧ **InterExchange:** Spain
- ❧ **Princeton in Asia:** Various Asian countries (East, SE, Central)
- ❧ **WorldTeach:** Bangladesh, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Namibia, Pohnpei, Poland, and South Africa
- ❧ 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

- ❧ American Scandinavian Foundation:
Teach in Finland
- ❧ 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

☞ **Secure job *before* going abroad**

- ☞ Search job posting boards (Dave's ESL Café, tefl.com, etc.)
- ☞ Compare required qualifications & benefits
 - ☞ May require TEFL certificate, experience, etc.
- ☞ Be in direct contact with school
- ☞ Sign a contract
 - ☞ 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**

- ☞ Research where the demand is
- ☞ Research the qualifications needed to teach in that location
- ☞ 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 Certificate: doesn't expire & internationally recognized!



- ☞ **Hamline University, St. Paul**
 - ☞ Intensive or semester-long course
 - ☞ Can work or continue studies while doing this certificate course
 - ☞ Cost approx. \$2900

☞ **Global Experiences**

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

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

- ☞ Alliance Abroad
- ☞ 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/workAbroad.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!