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?

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
BECAUSE IT’S FUN!!!

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
STEPS TO GOING ABROAD AGAIN

 dévelop 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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
“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

Sarah Tschida & Emeelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
Independently Applying to a Private School

**STEPS TO TAKE:**
1. Search job posting boards (Dave’s ESL Café, [www.tefl.com](http://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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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.

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
Work, Teach, Volunteer Abroad Resources

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

Sarah Tschida & Emeele Volden
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

Sarah Tschida & Emelee Volden
Questions?

GOOD LUCK!!!

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