

STRATEGIES FOR WORKING/LIVING ABROAD



Interested in working in another country? Thinking of volunteering for a year overseas? There are many important things to take into account if you are planning on working abroad. Although many aspects of the job search are similar to jobs you apply for in the U.S., there are also many distinct differences when trying to work in another country. This guide will help you maneuver through some of the challenges of an international job/volunteer search.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ...

- When do you want to go overseas: now or in a year and for how long?
- What's more important: a prestigious career-oriented job or actually being overseas? (In other words, are you willing to be a nanny or a hotel clerk as long as you're overseas?)
- Do you want or need more education before you go? Do the jobs you're interested in require a master's degree or teacher certification?
- Do you need to get more experience in your career field before you try to find a job abroad?
- Are you willing to volunteer, or do you only want a paid job?
- Are you considering going to just one country or one of several countries?
- How proficient are you in the language of your intended country?

BEFORE YOU GO: PASSPORTS, WORKING PAPERS, VISAS, ETC.

You will need a passport to travel abroad and to return to the U.S. If you have one, check the date of issuance to make sure it won't expire before you return. If you don't have one yet, expect the process to take one to two months. You can apply for a passport through a main post office facility and/or local county clerk's office. You'll need proof of citizenship (certified copy of birth certificate, current valid ID (driver's license), two passport photos, and passport application fee. Visas are needed for some countries. The visa is generally stamped on your passport, and it is wise to obtain it before you leave the US. Contact the U.S.-based foreign consulate or embassy for information about your country of interest.

Quick tips:

- Consider the costs involved — do a budget analysis.
- Make sure your passport is up-to-date.
- Check on health laws/immunization requirements. Contact the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/) or your doctor.
- Find out the working visa requirements for your country of choice.
- Make sure your medical and accident insurance are valid in the country in which you travel.

OBTAINING DOCUMENTATION TO WORK ABROAD

Most countries require a work permit for full-time and permanent jobs. If you work for the government, an international organization, or a large U.S. corporation, your employer will handle the details. It is very difficult to obtain a work permit in another country and the requirements vary from country to country. Often an employer has to prove that the foreign worker is uniquely qualified, and a national candidate is not available.

To obtain resident status in a country usually involves:

- You already have a job waiting for you;
- You have means to live in a country without employment;
- You fulfill government criteria to establish your own business;
- You are descended from or married to a national;
- You have lived in the country already for a number of years for a reason acceptable to the government, such as being a political refugee;
- You are willing to pay a fee to an organization (i.e. CIEE, BUNAC, Global Vision International) that will assist you in obtaining a temporary work visa. Then it would be up to the employing organization to sponsor you for longer.

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WHERE ARE THE INTERNATIONAL JOBS? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS...

- **Business and Banking**
- **Criminal Justice/Law**
 - International Law
 - Border Patrol
 - FBI
 - CIA
- **Consulting Firms Government**
 - United Nations
 - USAID
- **Healthcare (Hospitals, medical relief)**
- **Infrastructure/Public Service**
 - Construction
 - Architecture
 - Public Housing
 - City Management
- **International Education**
 - Teaching English as A Second Language
 - Teaching at an American or Foreign School abroad
 - International Education administrator at an American college or university
- **Nonprofit and Relief/Volunteer Agencies/NGOs** (Non-governmental organizations)
 - Peace Corps
 - Jesuit Volunteer Corps
 - Food for the Hungry
 - Catholic Relief Services
- **Public Policy Initiatives**
 - Government
 - Local, State, and Federal
 - Consulting
 - Research Groups
- **Technical Fields**
 - Agriculture
 - Computers
 - Engineering
- **Travel Industry**
 - Airlines
 - Hotels/Motels
 - Tour Group

BEST U.S. CITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- **New York:** New York is the hub for many businesses including communications and media (advertising, publishing, etc.), nonprofit organizations, international corporations, finance, trade, and shipping. Many of the film industry's international offices are located in New York.
- **Washington, D.C.:** In Washington, virtually every agency in the U.S. government has an international division. In addition, Washington is host to a variety of lobbying groups, nonprofit organizations, consultants, and think-tanks.
- **Miami:** Miami is a hub for international shipping and trade. Many companies which manufacture their products elsewhere ship through Miami and have a Miami office.
- **Philadelphia:** Philadelphia serves as a major import/export center and also offers international banking opportunities.
- **Chicago:** Chicago is the base for several international consulting firms and also has international banking interests.
- **San Francisco and Los Angeles:** These cities serve as a major connection to the Far East.

International Job Web Resources:

- XPD's website: Go to <https://www.csbsju.edu/xpd/students/internships-and-jobs> — click on links such as “International Employment Links for U.S. Citizens” to find many great websites for working abroad including specific country job sites, teaching English abroad, and much more.
- GoInGlobal: Check out the 40+ country guides and learn more about living abroad, job/internship opportunities, etc.- found on XPD's website (access the XPD website or Handshake's Library – www.csbsju.edu/xpd/students - see under Popular Resources)
- Make an appointment with XPD Staff to discuss international opportunities.
- Talk with staff in the Center for Global Education to discuss opportunities abroad (www.csbsju.edu/global).