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How to Market Your International Study Experience

- What types of skills and attributes are developed through taking a degree abroad? •
- Where should I include my international study experience on my CV? •
- Should I discuss my international study experience in my cover letter or during job interviews?

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How to Market Your International Study Experience

Among the many benefits of taking a degree abroad, your international experience will be attractive to employers and will be an asset to you in your job search. You should include this experience on your CV, and perhaps refer to it in your cover letter, portfolio, and mention it in job interviews.

Experiences in other countries offer opportunities for personal growth and exploration as well as the opportunity to build valuable skills and traits that will enhance your ability to compete as a top job candidate! However, you need to communicate the impact and value of your experience to potential employers.

● What types of skills and attributes are developed through taking a degree abroad?

The skills and attributes gained while studying abroad are as diverse and varied as each individual's study-abroad experience. The following list offers examples of skills often developed through living in other countries.

- Communication skills (including listening and overcoming language barriers)
- Foreign language skills
- Global point of view, appreciation of diversity, tolerance, cultural awareness, and sensitivity to customs and cultural differences
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Motivation and initiative
- Organizational and time-management skills
- Ability to identify, set, and achieve goals
- General travel and navigational skills
- Problem-solving and crisis-management skills
- Patience
- Independence, self-reliance, and responsibility
- Perseverance
- Inquisitiveness
- Assertiveness

● Where should I include my international study experience on my CV?

Ways to incorporate your experience on your CV vary. Here are some general guidelines to help you get started:

- If you took your degree abroad and attended classes abroad, you can list the experience in your Education section.
- If you gained practical work experience while abroad, such as an internship, or part-time job you can list it in a Work Experience, Internship Experience, or Career-Related Experience category.
- You can also include study- and work-abroad programs in a separate category titled International Experience, International Education, etc. This option may be the most appropriate if you've had multiple experiences abroad.
- Be sure to include accomplishment statements and mention the key skills you developed through these experiences.

- **Should I discuss my international study experience in my cover letter or during job interviews?**

The key to writing a great cover letter and preparing for a job interview is to match your skills and abilities to the needs of the employer and the post in particular. Look closely at the person specification “essential” criteria to see what skills are required for the particular job you are applying for. In most cases, international experience will be attractive to employers; you will need to determine what skills will enable you to "sell yourself" best.

Use your cover letter to highlight one or two of your top skills or attributes and refer to your travel experience if appropriate. Your cover letter should spark employers' interest and direct them to your CV for additional information about your qualifications.

As you get ready for job interviews, prepare stories that highlight your skill sets and reflect on several experiences from your past, including studying abroad.

- **What if I need additional help?**

The Office of Career Services offers resources to help you develop your CV, cover letter, and portfolio and prepare for job interviews.

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