
How to Find Work Abroad

General Tips

Working internationally can be beneficial, both to personal and professional development. An increasingly global market is also presenting more opportunities for interested persons to find work in other countries around the world. However, factors such as work permits/visas, language barriers, competitive application processes, and specialized skill requirements may present some challenges to finding work abroad. The following general tips may be helpful as you plan your strategy for finding international work:

- Identify where you want to go and narrow your top choices to specific regions or countries.
- Study the language of that region or country.
- Network to build contacts in the country or region through professional organizations (see suggested links below).
- Learn about opportunities to volunteer, work or teach in the identified country (see suggested links below).
- Travel to the country for a short-term trip to build local connections and learn about opportunities firsthand.
- Research U.S. companies that have offices in the country or region of interest.
- Keep an open mind – maybe consider a different line of work in order to get a paid position in the country of interest, then do a more specific job search once in the area and once any work contracts or obligations have been fulfilled.

Finding a job or internship abroad can take a lot of time and is quite different from finding a job in the United States. Resumes, cover letters, and interview skills will vary based on your country of interest. The following online guides should help you understand how to successfully conduct an international job search.

- Career Services' links -- <http://careerservices.colorado.edu/students/goInternational.aspx>
- QuintEssential's International Career Guide -- http://www.quintcareers.com/working_abroad_tutorial/
- The Riley Guide - <http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>
- Transitions Abroad -- www.transitionsabroad.com
- University of Michigan's Guide to Working Abroad www.internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/work/#living

If you are a current student or recent graduate without a lot of work experience, your best option may be to find short-term international employment in countries where work permits are easily obtained. Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada all offer 3-6 month work permits. In addition, and because the visa process is often a hassle, several third-party agencies will help students obtain a work visa as well as employment. While these organizations require a fee, they provide a combination of services that may include housing support, travel insurance, visa support and other administrative services. The services provided by individual organizations vary. A sample list of organizations that provide these services includes:

- Alliance Abroad www.allianceabroad.com
- BUNAC www.bunac.org
- Interexchange www.interexchange.org

Networking

Networking is one of the most effective ways to find a job in another country. Keep in mind that you may not be directly asking people in your network for jobs, but instead – making a quick introduction and asking if they would mind talking with you for 15 or 20 minutes about their insight into working in the area, and any tips or advice they may have for making local connections in your field of interest. A few effective networking tools and ideas include:

- Talk with parents' friends and friends' parents – start asking your immediate network if anyone has a contact in the country of interest.

- Search the University of Colorado, Boulder 'Forever Buffs' alumni directory (<https://www.cualum.org/>) to see if any CU alumni are living in (or are from) your country of interest.
- Talk with CU faculty & staff that have international experience:
<http://www.colorado.edu/oie/admin/iedb/index.html>
- Join the Career Services LinkedIn group and search for members that either live abroad or have international experience -- <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/113018/2D526C775499>
- Attending Career Services events to network with recruiters from international organizations and learn valuable tips for finding work abroad.

International Employment Resources

The following list of organizations may help identify jobs or other resources for finding international work:

- BUNAC (fee-based) -- <http://www.bunac.org/usa/>
- CDS International (fee-based) -- www.cdsintl.org
- Idealist -- <http://www.idealist.org>
- iHipo International Job Board -- <http://www.ihipo.com/?q=Jobs-and-Internships>
- InterExchange (fee-based) -- <http://www.workingabroad.org/work-travel.html>
- International Development Exchange -- www.idex.org
- State Department Jobs -- www.state.gov/careers/
- U.S. Government -- <http://federaljobs.net/overseas.htm> and <http://www.usajobs.gov/EI10.asp>
- Job Opportunities in Asia -- <http://www.jobsdb.com/default.htm?38318>
- U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service -- <http://www.trade.gov/cs/employment.asp>
- USAID -- <http://www.usaid.gov/careers/>
- Uniworld (must be on campus to access) -- <http://www.uniworldbp.com/search.php>

Teaching abroad is one of the most common ways to find work in another country. Teach abroad resources include:

- American-Scandinavian Foundation -- www.amscan.org/training.html
- Colorado China Council -- www.asiacouncil.org
- Council on International Exchange -- www.ciee.org/teach.aspx
- Cultural Services of the French Embassy -- <http://www.frenchculture.org/>
- Department of Defense Schools -- <http://www.dodea.edu/offices/hr/employment/default.htm>
- ESL Job Board -- <http://www.esljobs.com/>
- ESL/EFL Resources -- <http://www.eslcafe.com/>
- International School Services -- www.iss.edu
- Search Associates -- www.search-associates.com
- State Department Sponsored Schools -- <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/>
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages -- www.tesol.org
- Teaching Jobs Overseas -- www.joyjobs.com
- The International Educator -- www.tieonline.com
- University of Northern Iowa Overseas Recruitment Fair -- <http://www.uni.edu/placement/overseas/>
- WorldTeach c/o Center for International Development -- www.worldteach.org
- USAjobs.gov Information -- <http://www.usajobs.gov/EI26.asp>

International Internship and Volunteer Resources

Volunteering or finding an internship abroad may be a good way to get your "foot in the country," to build your local network and learn about specific opportunities. There are some 'paid' volunteer opportunities that include room, board, and possibly a small stipend. For some programs, there is an up-front fee for training, placement, and health insurance. If you are interested in volunteering abroad without an up-front fee, *Going Global (<http://online.goingglobal.com/default.aspx>) and Idealist (www.idealist.org) are two good resources. You must be on the University of Colorado, Boulder campus to access Going Global. The following sites provide additional resources for volunteering and interning abroad (some may be fee-based).

- International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce --
<http://www.aiesecus.org/default.html>

- International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience -- <http://www.iaeste.org/>
- Council of International Educational Exchange -- <http://www.ciee.org/>
- Foundation for Sustainable Development -- www.fsdinternational.org
- Global Service Corps -- www.globalservicecorps.org
- Global Volunteers -- www.globalvolunteers.org
- Go Abroad -- www.goabroad.com/volunteer
- Institute of International Education -- www.iiepassport.org
- InterAction <http://www.interaction.org/> -- refer to the membership directory.
- International Volunteer Programs Association -- <http://www.volunteerinternational.org/>
- Projects Abroad -- <http://www.projects-abroad.org/>

*GoingGlobal offers career guides for more than 25 different countries that include in-country job-postings, job trends, networking groups, financial considerations, work visas/permits, resume guidelines and cultural advice.

On-Campus Resources

Additionally, there are several on-campus offices that are dedicated to helping you pursue international opportunities while you are still in school. In addition to Career Services, the Office of International Education (<http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/>) is home to the Peace Corps Program and Study Abroad (<http://studyabroad.colorado.edu/>) and provides additional international resources for CU students. CU, Boulder hosts many student clubs and associations, some of which have an international focus, or language emphasis. A list of clubs can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/index.html>.

Publications

- *International Jobs: Where They Are and How to Get Them*, by Nina Segal and Eric Kocher
- *The Back Door Guide to: Short Term Job Adventures*, by Michael Landes
- *The Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas*, by Jean-Marc Hachey
- *Work Your Way Around the World*, 12th Edition by Susan Griffith
- *The Rough Guide First-Time Around the World*, by Doug Lansky
- *Working World; Careers In International Education, Exchange, and Development*, by Sherry Mueller and Mark Overmann
- *The Grown-Up's Guide to Running Away From Home: Making a New Life Abroad*, by Rosanne Knorr
- *GenXpat: The Young Professional's Guide To Making A Successful Life Abroad*, by Margaret Malewski
- *The Peace Corps and More: 175 Ways To Work, Study and Travel at Home and Abroad*, by Medea Benjamin and Miya Rodolfo-Sioson
- *Alternatives to the Peace Corps*, by Caitlin Hachmyer
- *Work, Study, Travel Abroad: The Whole World Handbook*, by Council of International Educational Exchange

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Phone 303-492-6541 FAX 303-492-5723 E-mail: career@colorado.edu <http://careerservices.colorado.edu>

Additional guides available at: <http://careerservices.colorado.edu/students/MajorCareerInfo.aspx>