



Study Abroad

Reentry Workshop





Let Your Experience Work For You!

- **An overseas experience can create new interests, abilities, linguistic and cultural skills that are not only valuable to the individual, but can be very attractive to potential future employers.**
- **Few students are actually aware of the degree to which the overseas experience may have changed their way of thinking and acting.**



Let Your Experience Work For You!

Examples:

- Increased foreign language competency
- deeper knowledge of the host country and culture
- acquisition of overseas "survival skills"
- ability to interact successfully with a variety of people in new situations
- new knowledge within their academic discipline
- new research skills
- new problem-solving skills



What skills have you gained?

Seventy-Five Long-Term Outcomes:

<http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>

- You are more flexible and better able to adjust
- You have improved observational skills
- Your ability to see situations and issues from more than one perspective
- You value human diversity and respect others from a variety of backgrounds
- You have an increased your capacity to experiment and take risks
- You are confident about the decisions you make

Transferable Intercultural Skills useful in the workplace and often sought by employers include:



Perseverance	Flexibility
Independence	Ability to work in a multicultural group
Second (or more) language ability	Ability to work in a multilingual environment
Ability to solve problems	Demonstrated initiative
Tolerance for stress	Adaptability without judgment
Negotiation skills	Self-reliance
Motivation	Enhanced listening skills
Sensitivity to cultural context	Able to establish rapport quickly
Time management skills	Ability to cope with difficulty and rejection
Accept responsibility for actions	Clear written and oral communication skills
Can communicate across barriers	Possess an understanding of culture's complexity
Respect for difference and diversity	Demonstrate self-confidence/self knowledge
Sense of curiosity	Ability to "fit in" to new groups



What Employers May Miss...

- **Students who study abroad gain an enhanced understanding of other peoples and their cultures and more focus on the meaning of one's college education.**
 - growth of cosmopolitanism
 - lessening of parochialism
- **While abroad, most students experience challenges to their values, beliefs, attitudes, and worldviews. This often results in profound learning and changed individuals.**



Avoid clichés....

Responses like:

- **"expanded global perspective"**
- **"increased cross-cultural communication skills"**
- **"participated in the world economy"**

are often seen as vague and impersonal phrases.

Clichés can be avoided if the stated results of the study abroad are specific, realistic, and relate directly to the student's future academic and professional goals.



Example Resume:

Education

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education

Middle Tennessee State University

Emphasis: Leadership

Minors: Economics, Global Studies

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2011

Study Abroad, Prague, Czech Republic

Czech Agricultural University

Focuses: Agricultural Economics, Czech Culture, Czech Language

Summer Session 2010



Example Resume:

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Dual Emphasis in Management and Economics

Minor: Spanish

Middle Tennessee State University

Graduated: December 2009

Study Abroad Experience; Segovia, Spain

Emphasis in Spanish and Business

Kentucky Institute for International Studies

Spring Semester 2009



Example Resume:

EDUCATION

Middle Tennessee State University

08/06- 05/10

- Honors College
- BS in Global Studies; Minor: Business
- Cumulative GPA: 3.7

Beijing Foreign Studies University

08/08 – 01/09

- Study Abroad in Beijing, China in an intensive Chinese language program



Example Resume:

Study Abroad, Singapore

January - May 2009

- Traveled Southeast Asia and Australia studying culture
- Presented in media and communication classes with groups of local and international students
- Researched Western and Asian media concepts, practices and international relations



Example Resume:

Middle Tennessee State University

May 2009

College of Liberal Arts

GPA: 3.86

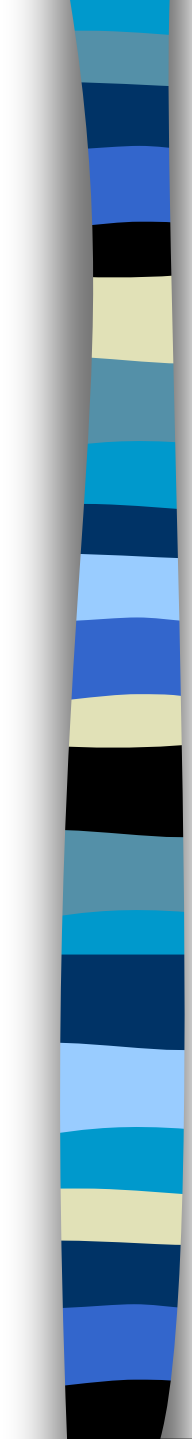
- Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

Universidad de Alicante

August 2008-July 2009

Alicante, Spain

- Directly enrolled in regular university courses with native Spanish students
- Studied Spanish language and culture, international marketing and economics, management, psychology, and geography

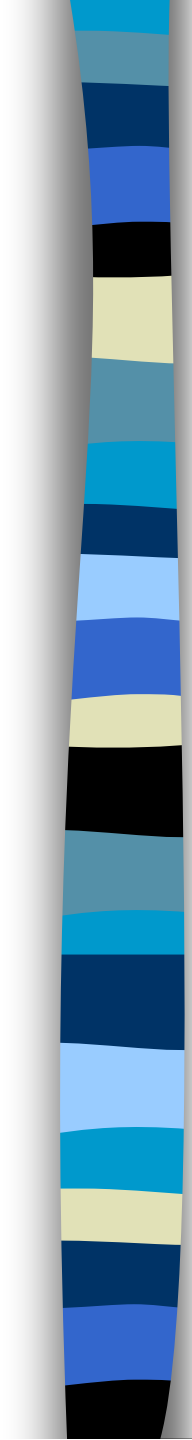


"If you can demonstrate to future employers that you understand international work environments, that you can function in a culture other than your own, away from the support units and friends, then you have the prerequisites for working abroad,"

Jean Marc Hachey,

author of the "Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas."

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/BUSINESS/11/03/work.overseas/>



“To put it starkly, we face today the prospect of what might be called a ‘**global divide,**’ between those students who will graduate from college with global literacy and those who will not. For those students who do not have the advantage of a global education, the consequences of this divide could be as profound as those that were feared for the digital divide. If government and educational leaders understand this – as Americans already do – they will do everything they can to continue to support and grow international education. ”

Victor C Johnson,
author of the "What Americans Say About Investing in
International Education, Even in Challenging Economic Times,"



References

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http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/study/undergraduate/study_abroad_articles_study_abroad_advisor.shtml
- What's Up with Culture?
<http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>
- “How to tap into growing overseas job market,” by Mark Tutton, CNN, November 3, 2009
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References

- **What Americans Say About Investing in International Education, Even in Challenging Economic Times, January 26, 2011, Victor C Johnson**
<http://blog.nafsa.org/2011/01/26/what-americans-say-about-investing-in-international-education-even-in-challenging-economic-times/>
- **Study Abroad's New Focus Is Job Skills, October 17, 2010**
<http://chronicle.com/article/Study-Abroads-New-Focus-Is/124979/>