

# Utilize Study Abroad Experience in Your Job Search



Studying abroad can spark personal development in many ways.

For instance, you learn to navigate unfamiliar places and customs, gain empathy and understanding of other cultures, improve interpersonal communication styles, and further develop personal confidence and independence. Sometimes, it can be a challenge to know how to communicate these valuable attributes or skills when starting your career; therefore, we recommend going through the following thought process to get started.

## What skills do employers want most in their employees?

- **Teamwork** – someone who can build rapport and strong relationships with individuals who have diverse backgrounds and viewpoints
- **Critical Thinking** – someone with the ability to use reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems
- **Career Management** – someone who can identify and articulate their strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the job vacancy desired and career goals
- **Leadership** – someone who can leverage the strengths of others and use interpersonal skills to coach individuals to achieve a common goal
- **Communication** – someone who can articulate thoughts, ideas, facts, etc. to others via both oral and written communication methods (public speaking included)
- **Digital Technology** – someone who can effectively use digital technology to solve problems and accomplish goals
- **Professionalism** – someone who practices effective work habits and personal accountability like punctuality, time management, and acting responsibly
- **Intercultural Fluency** – someone who respects and learns from other cultures, ages, genders, sexual orientation, and religion

## Knowing what employers look for, reflect on your experience:

- What skills did you develop while abroad?
- How did this experience change your behavior or viewpoints?
- What was it like dealing with an unfamiliar currency?
- What did you learn about other cultures during your trip?
- Did you have to navigate logistical problems?
- Did you have to adapt? If so, how?
- How did you overcome communication barriers?
- Did you have to speak in front of a group at any point?
- Were you put in a position of leadership at any point?
- Did you have to work closely with people of diverse backgrounds?
- How did you manage cultural differences when working in a team?
- Are you able to empathize with individuals of various cultural backgrounds?
- Did you experience conflict with other individuals? If so, how did you handle this?
- Did you gain independence? If so, why and how?
- Do you feel more confident? If so, why?

- How did you balance traveling and school work/ internship responsibilities?
- Did you learn a new technology?

## How to communicate this information to employers:

### Analyze the job that you're applying for

- What qualities/skills are most pivotal to this job & how do you meet them?
- Based on your experiences, identify specific situations or examples that explain how you meet the identified skills
- Practice talking about these supporting situations because employers love it when candidates can back up their statements

### How do you demonstrate this in a resume?

- Focus on accomplishments, skills, and results more than specific job duties
- Use action verbs and specific details about your experience

### Where should you list this information:

- **Education section:** If the program consisted of taking a class abroad and learning primarily about the specific country's culture or language, list information in the education section. Additionally, if you earned credit that is reflected on an international transcript, you should list out the university in the education section under Texas State. For example, if you received a certification while abroad, list the university you earned it from next to the title of the certification.
- **Experience Section:** If the program is basically an internship/project abroad, list information in the professional experience section
- In addition, you may be able to include a statement about a skill or two you obtained in your resume's "Summary of Qualifications" section

## Resume Examples:

**Study Abroad Participant** 01/18 – 05/18

*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

- Completed coursework in Spanish culture and advanced Spanish language
- Conducted research to further understand the effect of artist, Antoni Gaudí, on Barcelona's culture
- Confidently presented research findings to group of 25+ in Spanish
- Learned to view and understand situations from different cultural perspectives

**Marketing Intern** 05/18 – 07/18

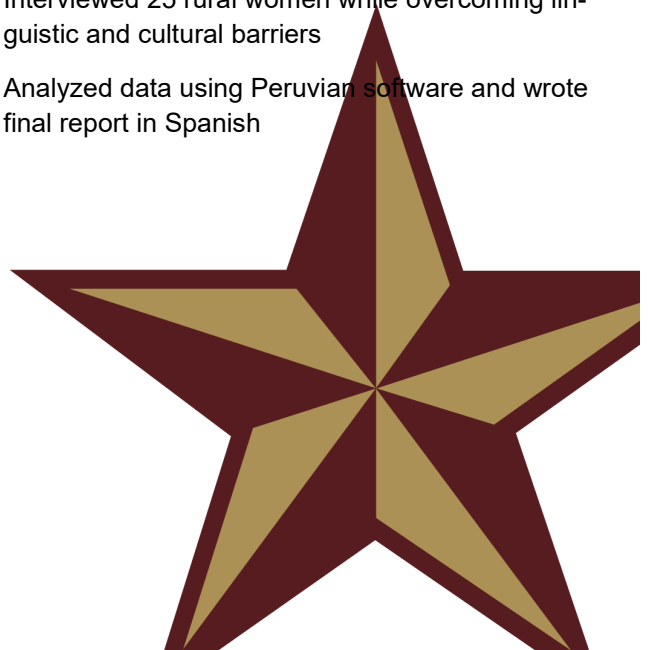
*Green Energy Consulting, Beijing, China*

- Collaborated with upper management to identify possible new business leads
- Co-led a team of 20 volunteers to build market and advertise new renewable energy source to consumers
- Developed rapport with colleagues from various backgrounds to achieve success for group projects

**Study Abroad Participant** 05/18 – 07/18

*Institute for the International Education, Chazuta, Peru*

- Developed culturally appropriate questionnaire to learn more about effects of birth control on population growth in Chazuta, Peru
- Interviewed 25 rural women while overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers
- Analyzed data using Peruvian software and wrote final report in Spanish



## Additional Resources

- If you need further assistance with your resume, cover letter, interview coaching etc., contact **Career Services**.
  - <https://www.careerservices.txstate.edu>
- Visit the **Texas State Study Abroad Office** for more resources regarding various abroad programs.
  - <https://www.studyabroad.txstate.edu/>
- Visit the **Center for International Studies**
  - <https://www.txstate.edu/internationalstudies>

## References

<https://www.ceastudyabroad.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/cea-resume-tips.pdf>

<https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/study-abroad-resume-tips>

<https://www.commerce.virginia.edu/career-services/marketing-your-study-abroad>

<https://www.commerce.virginia.edu/career-services/marketing-your-study-abroad>

<https://umabroad.umn.edu/assets/files/PDFs/students/returnedStudents/resumeTips.pdf>

[https://www.skidmore.edu/ocse/coming\\_back/resume.php](https://www.skidmore.edu/ocse/coming_back/resume.php)

<https://www.goabroad.com/articles/study-abroad/the-most-helpful-study-abroad-career-advice-you-ll-ever-get>

<https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/ways-study-abroad-changes-a-person>

**[www.careerservices.txstate.edu](https://www.careerservices.txstate.edu)**

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