

MARKETING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Studying abroad sets you apart when applying to jobs, internships, and graduate schools. Many potential employers and graduate school admissions counselors seek candidates with international experience because of the skills and knowledge students gain through study abroad. It is up to you to effectively communicate the skills and proficiencies that will benefit their organization and convince them of the value of your experience.

SKILLS AND QUALITIES

What skills or proficiencies have you acquired or enhanced while you were abroad?

- Enhanced cultural awareness and sensitivity to customs and cultural differences
- Foreign language proficiency (elementary to fluent)
- Clarification of goals and improved self-awareness
- Improvement in communication skills across cultures
- Awareness of global economic and political issues and realities
- Problem Solving, Crisis Management, Adaptability, and Resource Management
- Increased confidence, initiative, and independence

SELF REFLECTION

- Be prepared to give insightful comments about your experience at any time. Some things to consider: Which stories highlight new skills and knowledge from your study abroad experience?
- What was the most significant thing you learned about yourself through your study abroad experience? Why?
- How did studying abroad enhance your knowledge, skills, and understanding of your intended career field?
- What assets might international study yield as opposed to someone who studied domestically?

RESUME AND COVER LETTER

Be sure to add your international experience to your resume and cover letter where it is appropriate for your intended job or internship (resume and cover letter samples available on CEO's website For Students > Job Search > Job and Internship Search Documents).

- Consider listing the study abroad program under the education section of your resume rather than activities or other experiences. Add details (such as completing courses in the foreign language or a homestay) that show your skills.
- If the international experience included an internship, list the experience as a professional experience on your resume rather than as an activity.
- Even if your career goals do not include a specific international dimension at this time, use your cover letter to promote general transferable skills, such as independence, confidence, problem solving, and flexibility.

NETWORKING AND INTERVIEWS

If your interviewer remarks or asks about your international experience, take it as an opportunity to expand. Don't let the opportunity pass by with a simple "Yes, it was great!"

- Develop stories and responses in advance. Be ready to show it was a learning experience and provide examples.
- Identify skills in the job/internship description and create examples from your international experience that exemplify those skills.
- Be sure to also use domestic examples and ensure your example stories are balanced. It is better to illustrate critical thinking skills than to show-off one culture at the expense of another.

**For other tips & questions contact the CEO at 410-337-6191
or visit the CEO website at www.goucher.edu/CEO**