

Welcome  
Back to  
Texas Tech!



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Dear Study Abroad Returnee,

Welcome back to Texas Tech! We hope you had a wonderful experience studying and living in another country!

How does it feel to be back? We understand that coming home may be more difficult than you anticipated. While some students make the transition back with ease, many others find the adjustment upon return to the United States to be a bit trying and confusing. It's great to be reunited with loved ones and hang out in all the old comfortable places, but you may still feel a little disoriented, and miss many aspects of your time abroad. It could be that you're finding your friends and family can't relate to your experience abroad, or perhaps it will be difficult to be back in an American classroom. No doubt your usual routine may seem a tad boring after the excitement and novelty of Barcelona, Shanghai, or Buenos Aires. We are here to assure you these feelings are quite normal. Re-entering your home culture can be just as difficult as adjusting to your host culture. For some students it may be even more challenging. Read on for information and resources on surviving the perils of re-entry "shock" and embracing the return to your home culture.

In a few weeks we'll host a workshop in which we'll focus on utilizing your 'lessons from abroad' in your career development.

Later in the semester you'll be invited to hear from a wide array of speakers all of whom understand the ups and downs of returning home after studying, living and working abroad. Some have made a career out of their passion for travel and exploring new cultures. We hope that you'll come to all of the sessions and be inspired by new ideas and resources on how to continue pursuing your own passions as a global citizen.

We look forward to spending time with you and inspiring the life-long learning and application of your "Lessons from Abroad!"

We're glad you're back!

The TTU Study Abroad Staff

## Top Ten Re-entry Frustrations

(faced by most study abroad participants – no, you are not alone!)

1. Boredom
2. “No one wants to hear about it”
3. It’s hard to explain
4. Reverse homesickness
5. Previous relationships have changed
6. People see the “wrong” changes
7. People misunderstand if I adopt elements of my host culture; they misinterpret my behavior
8. Feelings of alienation; seeing home with critical eyes
9. Inability to apply new knowledge and skills
10. Fear of losing the experience, like storing it away in a souvenir box we only occasionally look at

# Oh the Joys of Coming Home

## Reverse Culture Shock

The unsettled feeling that can accompany one's return from abroad is what some refer to as "reverse culture shock" and is a very common reaction for students coming home from studying abroad. Feelings can range from the sense that nobody understands how you've changed, to feeling panicked that you will lose part of your identity if you don't have an outlet to pursue the new interests that were sparked abroad. Your own reactions to reintegrating to life in the U.S. may vary from your friends, and can include one or more of the following:

- Restlessness
- Rootlessness
- Boredom
- Depression
- Uncertainty, confusion about the future
- Isolation, wanting to be alone
- Reverse homesickness: missing the people, places, attitudes or lifestyles of your host country
- Changes in life goals and priorities
- Negativity or intolerance towards the U.S., including American behavior, attitudes, customs and common social practices.

According to professionals in the field of International Education, 85% of people returning home have some kind of re-entry adjustment period, and of those, 15% have more serious difficulties adapting to their return. If you're having difficulty with your return, think back to the adjustments you made to living abroad. These same skills can help you in coming home. The coping skills and strategies that were successful in helping you adjust to your overseas culture will be just as helpful in making the return home: get involved, identify a support group of other study abroad students, suspend judgment of others, keep a journal of your observations, and don't forget to keep your sense of humor.

Here are some quotes from past returnees about their readjustment to life in the US.

### **Italy:**

"I felt like nothing had changed here, including myself. I was doubting the progress I had made because I began to fall back into old patterns. But I have finally noticed the true personal growth I have made."

### **Mexico:**

"To begin with, I miss Mexico. The greater problem is that I became accustomed to the constant challenge of speaking and adapting to new situations. This constant stimuli is almost addictive. That is why it is hard to come back."

## **New Zealand:**

"I immediately felt out of place. With my new global attitude, I felt uncomfortable and unprepared to function in a society that I now could detect as so judgmental. Nobody understood what I was feeling, and people expect you to be able to identify specific events and happenings that can be labeled, such as "most fun thing" or "hardest thing" or "best place," etc. People view your experience as strictly 5 months in another country vacationing, whereas what you experience is more of a life change."

## Coping, Adjusting, and Getting Involved

Many of the feelings you may experience stem from the change you have undergone and the ambiguity about how the new, changed you fits into your old life. First of all, it is important to remember that change is a positive thing. You have new ideas and insights giving you a better sense of yourself. The trick is to figure out how to incorporate your new perspectives into your life at on your home campus. There are several things you can do to feel comfortable once again in the U.S. while still retaining new knowledge and perspectives. First, don't consider study abroad a singular experience; instead, look at it as the start of a lifetime of international experiences. Second, find ways to continue pursuing newfound interests. Make the most of the resources that exist for you on your home campus and in your local community.

## Here are a few ideas:

- Take a language class to maintain your language proficiency.
- Start a new language group!
- Find out about being a tutor for students who need help in elementary or intermediate language courses.
- Attend presentations on international issues.
- Host an international dinner party.
- Apply to be a Study Abroad Peer Advisor or a mentor to an international exchange student.
- Submit your photos for the Study Abroad Photo Contest at TTU or nationally (see details below).
- Submit original writing you did while abroad to be published on campus, in community newspapers or in national magazines (see more later).
- Stop by and talk with us about your experience. We love to hear your stories and see your photos!
- Help us recruit and prepare new study abroad students by helping with the Study Abroad Fair, pre-departure orientation, or helping at our table in the library.
- Join a student group with an international focus like Students for Global Connections.
- Go to the library and read newspapers in the language of your host country. (Many papers are available on the internet as well).
- Check out foreign films or see the ones showing on campus.
- Rekindle the spirit of adventure you had abroad. Explore home!
- Talk with others about your experience. Correspond with friends and family from your host country.
- Visit the "What's up with Culture" website and take some of the reflection and skills assessment inventories. Address is <http://www3.uop.edu/sis/culture/index.htm>



# Share Your Experiences and Get Published

As a study abroad returnee, there are many ways for you to share your experiences with others. Publishing them is not only beneficial for the reader, but great experience for you and your résumé! Keep in mind that some organizations and publishers pay for submissions, while others do not. There are also a variety of photos and writing contests that offer prizes. The following information is taken from the websites of the organizations listed below.

## Magazines and Online Publications

- **Glimpse Magazine** looks for correspondents, which are mainly study abroad students. Glimpse Magazine's focus is to provide readers with in-depth insights into the daily cultural, political and social realities of life abroad. Approximately one quarter of Glimpse articles are republished in major newspapers and magazines.

You do not have to consider yourself a "writer" to contribute to Glimpse Magazine. The Glimpse editorial staff undergoes a personal, intensive revision process with each and every contributor, teaching those with all levels of writing experience the basic tenets of compelling creative nonfiction. While not all submissions are ultimately accepted, all contributors are given a chance to work collaboratively with an editorial staff member to revise or refocus their submissions.

Glimpse Online continually considers submissions on virtually every theme. Glimpse Quarterly solicits articles on a quarterly basis to meet the specific needs of each issue. Glimpse also offers writing and photo essay contests, each of which focuses on a particular dimension of the abroad experience. They have recently added a section called Faux Pas! to Glimpse Quarterly, which consists of anecdotes about specific (and often embarrassing) instances of cultural miscommunication.

<http://www.glimpse.org>

- **Transitions Abroad** is a magazine for travelers, especially for those seeking to extend their time abroad through work, study, and/or finding the best bargains. Its purpose is to provide readers with the practical information and ideas they need to make their own plans. Readers are most interested in learning about the culture by meeting the people and value for money.

The magazine's four major departments—Travel, Work, Study, and Living—are all devoted to immediately usable practical information and ideas (the "nuts and bolts"). Contributors write from personal knowledge, usually from first-hand experience, and stress ways to avoid the cultural isolation of a tourist. The more useable information presented in a concise manner, the greater the likelihood of publication.

They look for writing contributions in the following categories: Independent Traveler, the Learning Traveler, Solo Woman Traveler, the Gay or Lesbian Traveler, the Working Traveler, Living Abroad (experience and practical information on assimilating into the local culture and getting to know the people), Abroad at Home (submissions should provide insights on the creative arts of another culture that may be embraced in our day-to-day life while not physically abroad), Education Abroad (practical information and advice for readers planning a study abroad experience). Transitions Abroad also

holds writing contests and accept photo submissions.

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com>

- **Abroad View** encourages study abroad and international students to submit articles to "Abroad View" at any time. They are more than happy to review drafts and work with students to develop their ideas. Submissions guidelines and writing tips are available.  
<http://www.abroadview.org/webzine/index.htm>
- **Urbanlowdown** is part travel guidebook, part travel journal. Urbanlowdown focuses on the perspectives and experiences of our student correspondents living around the globe. <http://urbanlowdown.com/correspondent.php>
- **Journeywoman.com Travel Resource Website** seeks to inspire females to travel safely and well and to connect women travelers worldwide. They publish female-centered travel experience articles. Each published article becomes eligible for their Annual Journeywoman Travel Writing Competition.
- [http://www.journeywoman.com/writers\\_guidelines.html](http://www.journeywoman.com/writers_guidelines.html)
- **European Visits Online Magazine** is an online magazine about travel in Europe. They accept article submissions from both experienced travel writers and ordinary travelers about visiting Europe for online publication.  
<http://europeanvisits.com/misc/submission-guidelines.htm>
- **Travelmag** is an online travel publication based in the UK. They look for tales of travel well beyond the guidebook routes, illuminating little-known corners of the globe and, occasionally, revealing a bit about themselves as well. They put up the features they find interesting, usually because they're good, but sometimes because they're outstandingly bad. Sometimes their writers are experienced journalists, others are starting out travel writing, learning the craft and looking for markets for their travel stories.  
<http://www.travelmag.co.uk/>
- **National Geographic** is a national organization that holds annual photo contests (see more below in the current contests category). They also have several publications, including the National Geographic Traveler which accepts both article and photo submissions.

Travel Story Submissions: [www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/writer-guidelines.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/writer-guidelines.html)

Travel Photo Submissions: [www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/photo-guidelines.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/photo-guidelines.html)

## Study Abroad Photo Contest

The Study Abroad office and many program providers host a photo contest for returning students, and accept written articles for the website. Check with us or the alumni section of your program provider to see what is available.

## Local Newspapers

Write up your stories and submit them to the Daily Toreador, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal or your hometown paper.



# Going Abroad Again

There are a variety of ways to go abroad again after you have graduated. Even on a tight budget, work, volunteer and independent study opportunities are readily available to you. The information below is intended to provide an overview of some of the options.

Before researching any opportunity, you should consider the following:

- What do you hope to gain from the experience?
- Where do you prefer to go?
- Would you like to utilize any language skills? Are you proficient enough to work in that language?
- How long would you like to stay abroad?
- How important is it to be paid? Can you support yourself financially?
- How will the experience relate to longer-term academic or career goals?

Below, you will find a list of ways to go abroad again. You will find that many of these options overlap; for example, volunteer programs may also be interpreted as working abroad. In the following sections, you will find more information about these possibilities, along with links to some helpful websites.

- Study Abroad: While you already have studied abroad, keep in mind that TTU allows you to have multiple study abroad experiences...and many students do! You already know where to go for information: the Study Abroad office! However, if you will graduate soon, there are other ways to study abroad – such as studying abroad for or during a master's degree program.
- Graduate School Abroad: There are several ways to do post-graduate studies abroad. One option is to apply and enroll directly and another is to go through an American organization that facilitates full degree programs abroad. In the following sections, you will find information about scholarship programs, fellowships, and other tips on graduate school abroad. (see below)
- Studying Abroad while in Graduate School in the US: More and more universities are offering study abroad opportunities for graduate students. Look into this while researching grad schools! Another option is to plan to do research for your degree abroad. Be sure to ask graduate school recruiters about opportunities to intern, study or research abroad. (see below)
- Internships Abroad: Again, there are lots of ways to find internships abroad. Just like at home, some internships pay, others do not, and some even require you to pay for the arrangements of the internship. You may find leads on internships abroad through: 1) your study abroad office (usually for programs where you pay to have an internship arranged – sometimes for academic credit as well); 2) the TTU Career Services Center; 3) various work or volunteer abroad resources. (see below)
- Volunteering Abroad: There are many opportunities to volunteer abroad. Most well known is the Peace Corps. For more than 40 years, Americans have served in

139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities. Other non-profit organizations have opportunities to serve others while allowing you to continue your international experience. (see below)

- Teaching English Abroad: Probably one of the most popular ways of spending more time abroad is teaching English. Some programs are volunteer, some are paid positions, and some programs charge you for arranging positions and facilitating paperwork. (see below)
- Short-term Work Abroad: Short-term work abroad (less than one year; typically a summer) usually involves working in an unskilled job, where you can earn enough to cover your food, lodging, and day-to-day living expenses. (see below)
- Careers Abroad and International Careers: Students interested in working abroad should begin by learning as much about the target country, and learning the host language at a high level of expertise. International experience, such as volunteering or teaching abroad, is a great way to "get your foot in the door." Many U.S. Government agencies have overseas opportunities, as well. (see below)

If you're having trouble deciding which options are best for you, you can do more research by talking with others who have spent time abroad and by checking out the following resources.

### Books

- Alternative Travel Directory: The Complete Guide to Traveling, Studying & Living Overseas, Ron Madar & Bill Nolting (2002)
- Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Guide of Global Volunteer Opportunities, Paul Blackhurst (2005)
- The Backdoor Guide to Short-Term Job Adventures: Internships, Summer Jobs, Seasonal Work, Volunteer Vacations, and Transitions Abroad, Michael Landes (2005)
- Careers in International Affairs, Maria Pinto Carland & Lisa A. Gihring (2003)
- Delaying the Real World – Make the World a Better Place: A Twenty Something's Guide to Seeking Adventure, Colleen Kinder (2005)
- The Global Citizen: A Guide to Creating an International Life and Career, Elizabeth Kruempelmann (2002)
- How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas, Joseph Collins, Stefano Dezerega, & Zahara Heckscher (2001)
- International Jobs: Where They Are and How to Get Them, Nina Segal & Eric Kocher (2003)
- Jobs for People Who Love to Travel: Opportunities at Home and Abroad (Jobs for Travel Lovers), Ronald Krannich & Caryl Rae Krannich (1999)
- Jobs and Careers Abroad (Directory of Jobs and Careers Abroad), Guy Hobbs (2006)
- Live & Work Abroad Guides (for several countries, check Amazon.com)
- New American Expat: Thriving and Surviving Overseas in the Post-9/11 World, William Russell Melton (2005)

- The Peace Corps and More: 175 Ways to Work, Study and Travel at Home & Abroad, Medea Benjamin & Miya Rodolfo-Sioson (1997)
- Peterson's the Directory of Jobs and Careers Abroad, Jonathon Packer (1997)
- Teaching English Abroad, Susan Griffith (2006)
- When in Rome or Rio or Riyadh: Cultural Q & A's for Successful Business Behavior Around the World, Gwyneth Olofsson

## Magazines

- Transitions Abroad Magazine <http://www.transitionsabroad.com> Abroad View Magazine <http://www.abroadviewmagazine.com> Glimpse Magazine <http://www.glimpse.org/>

## Stepping Stones of Experience: How to Find an International Job

- ❑ Try to identify your areas of interest:
  - A specific career or field? Business, social justice, foreign policy, development studies, education, health, the Arts, etc.
  - A specific area of the world?
  - Do you just want to go abroad and you're open to anything?
- ❑ If you're focused on a certain career or field:
  - Conduct informational interviews – it helps to learn about the job, the field and ways to get a job. It also helps to make contacts in the field that could lead to jobs in the future!
  - Look for any professional organizations or conferences in the field
  - Is there a professional website or listserv where job openings are posted?
  - Read journals and magazines addressing issues in the field – it helps you to know what's going on, which can help you in job interviews!
- ❑ If you're focused on a certain geographical region:
  - Work on your foreign language skills required for that region!
  - Look for any local organizations that are working on projects in that region – even if the focus isn't your life-long career choice, having experience working on a project (or even being informed about the project) is helpful.
  - Read, research, and interview people – do everything you can to know as much as you can about the area – make it your area of expertise!
  - Are there any immigrant groups or expatriate groups from that country/region in your local area? Is there any way to work with those groups?
- ❑ If your goal is to go abroad again and you're open about where, how, when:
  - Spend a lot of time surfing the internet (don't let yourself get overwhelmed – remember moderation and positive attitude!)
  - Make a point to create a network of contacts of:
    - Interesting people
    - Anyone with expertise in an area you're interested in
  - If you know what you want, tell the world and see if anyone can refer you to anyone else!
  - Keep building your experiences here so that your background experience and resume will help you take advantage of the opportunities you're interested in.
- ❑ Get involved locally – look for organizations that address your interests:
  - Student clubs and organizations
  - Volunteer or do internships with local organizations
  - Talk to professors during office hours who have experiences in the fields or the area abroad you are interested in
  - Get involved with international students or immigrants living in your area
  - Write papers on your area(s) of interest
  - Start networking through alumni networks
  - Continue or start to build foreign language skills

# Graduate School – At Home or Abroad?

Is the continuation of your academic career your next step? If you're thinking about going to graduate school, your first two steps should be to talk to your academic advisor and pay a visit to your campus career center. They will help you to learn how to identify programs that match your interests and goals and get you started in the application process.

If you're thinking about going to graduate school abroad, there are several things to consider in the application process. First of all, pinpoint what you want to study. Next, determine which schools offer the best programs. (This is where your faculty advisor may be of particular assistance.) How will you finance your studies? U.S. Federal Aid and loans may not be available for all programs overseas. Whatever you decide, you'll first have to deal with taking the entry exams, which are offered every few months. These tests may not be required by schools overseas, but it is still a good idea to take them now while your schooling is fresh, just in case your plans change to include a graduate program in the U.S. The Princeton Review keeps an excellent website with information on graduate school exams at [www.review.com](http://www.review.com)

## Resources for International Study and Fellowships

The following is a partial list of scholarships, fellowships and grants that provide funding for graduate study abroad.

### Scholarships

#### Fulbright Scholarship

<http://www.iie.org>

- Institute of International Education
- For study, research, or teaching abroad
- Applications are to ONE specific country
- If more than one semester of study in a country, don't apply to that country.
- Funds awarded

#### Marshall Scholarship

<http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>

- Marshall Scholarships "finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom"
- For study at any UK university, including the "Big Three"
- Need a 3.7 GPA minimum to apply

#### The George J. Mitchell Scholarship

<http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=2>

- Scholarship for study in Ireland
- NOT for "Irish Studies"
- Competitive – modeled as the Marshall Scholarship to Ireland

#### Rhodes Scholarship

<http://www.rhodesscholar.org/>

- For study at Oxford University, UK
- Must have *impressive* grades and leadership experience

#### Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair Scholars Program)

- For general information, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomecnair/index.html>
- Created to increase educational opportunities to students who are from low-income, first-generation families, and/or those who are from ethnic backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in graduate education. It is funded through the Department of Education.

#### The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award

[http://www.nationalgridus.com/commitment/d4-1\\_award.asp](http://www.nationalgridus.com/commitment/d4-1_award.asp)

- Provides an annual stipend of \$10,000 for a graduating college senior to pursue public service anywhere in the world.

#### David L. Boren Scholarship

[www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org)

- National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships
- Offers undergraduates the resources to study the language and culture of a non-Western country
- Intern for the federal department of your choice

#### Additional Graduate Programs and Search Engines

- Association of Professional Schools in International Affairs: <http://www.apsia.org>
- Comparative and International Education Society: <http://www.cies.ws/default.html>
- GradSchools.com:
  - <http://www.gradschools.com>
  - <http://www.international.gradschools.com>
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators:
  - <http://www.naspa.org/gradprep/index.cfm>
- Peterson's Higher Ed Guides: <http://www.petersons.com/graduate/gsector.html>
- Graduate Schools in Australia or New Zealand: <http://www.australearn.org>
- SIT graduate programs: <http://www.sit.edu/degree.html>

#### International Funding Sources

[http://research.uiowa.edu/dsp/main/?get=internat\\_funding\\_sources](http://research.uiowa.edu/dsp/main/?get=internat_funding_sources)

The Annenberg Foundation

<http://www.whannenberg.org>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

<http://www.aecf.org/>

The Ford Foundation

<http://www.fordfound.org/>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<http://www.rwjf.org/index.jsp>

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

<http://www.wkkf.org/>

MacArthur Foundation

<http://www.macfdn.org/>

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

<http://www.mellon.org/>

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

<http://www.Mott.org/>

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

<http://www.packard.org/home.aspx>

The Rockefeller Foundation

<http://www.rockfound.org/>

The Starr Foundation

<http://www.starrfoundation.org/>

The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation

<http://www.woodruff.org>



## Short-Term Work Abroad

Short-term work abroad (less than one year; typically a summer) usually involves working in an unskilled job, where you can earn enough to cover your food, lodging, and day-to-day living expenses. This type of job probably will not pay enough to cover air transportation, but it may help provide some extra money for travel after you leave your job. Short-term work experiences include positions such as “au pairs,” farm workers, typists, waitpersons, and youth camp leaders. If you are a full-time student or a recent graduate, the work abroad programs through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) or the British Universities North American Club (BUNAC) are some of the easiest ways for you to secure legal employment overseas.

Through CIEE ([www.ciee.org](http://www.ciee.org)) and BUNAC ([www.bunac.org](http://www.bunac.org)), you can cut through some red tape and obtain documentation that allows you to work from three months up to one year in another country. No special skills are required, but you must speak the language of the country. These organizations do not find employment for you, but if you’re resourceful and willing to be flexible in the type of job that you do, you should be able to find a position fairly easily.

### Work Abroad Resources:

[www.ciee.org](http://www.ciee.org)

[www.internationaljobs.org](http://www.internationaljobs.org)

<http://www.saic.com/>

[www.jobsabroad.com](http://www.jobsabroad.com)

[www.bunac.org](http://www.bunac.org)

[www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

[www.higheredjobs.com](http://www.higheredjobs.com)

<http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu>

[www.escapeartist.com](http://www.escapeartist.com)

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

### Paid International Internships and Work Opportunities

- Idealist: Action without Borders <http://www.idealists.org>
- Directory of International Internships (Michigan State University) <http://www.isp.msu.edu/Internationalinternships>
- International Internships and Volunteer Programs: International Options for Students and Professionals, Cantrell and Modderno (1992) <http://www.internabroad.com/search.cfm>
- Carl Duisberg Society (CDS): <http://www.cdsintl.org>
- Live & Work Abroad Guides: Books about Working & Living Overseas <http://www.escapeartist.com/>

## Volunteer Abroad

Restoration projects, literacy campaigns and teaching are just a few examples of the many different volunteer programs abroad. Some programs charge a fee and provide services such as insurance coverage, meals, and even housing. (It may sound strange to pay to volunteer, but it sometimes ensures that your experience will be what you're hoping it will be.) Some opportunities provide free room and board in exchange for your work, and others even pay a small stipend. Volunteer work opportunities may range from a few weeks long to two or three years in duration. If you're interested in development work, want to meet other foreigners and host nationals, and don't mind rudimentary living conditions, you may want to consider this type of program.

### Volunteer Abroad Resources:

[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

[www.volunteerabroad.com](http://www.volunteerabroad.com)

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

[www.worldteach.org](http://www.worldteach.org)

<http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu>

[www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

<http://www.ymcaglobal.org/index.shtml>

[www.uniteforsight.org](http://www.uniteforsight.org)

## Teaching English Abroad

There are many opportunities to teach English abroad through established programs. Most programs prefer a commitment of one academic year, though some offer summer or semester possibilities. In general, a bachelor's degree is required, although in most cases you do not need to be an English major. Organizations are more interested in your ability to speak native and fluent English. Volunteer and paid teaching opportunities can be found throughout the world.

### Teach Abroad Resources

[www.ciee.org](http://www.ciee.org)

<http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu>

[www.daveseslcafe.com](http://www.daveseslcafe.com)

<http://www.tefl.com/>

[www.eslworldwide.com](http://www.eslworldwide.com)

<http://www.eflweb.com/>

[www.teachabroad.com](http://www.teachabroad.com)

<http://www.linguistic-funland.com/tesljob.html>

## Careers Abroad and International Careers

Most careers these days can easily include an international focus or international opportunities. For example, if you are interested in health and medicine, you could volunteer or work with a number of organizations that run public health projects abroad. If you are interested in being a teacher, look into teacher exchanges or teaching jobs abroad. Most international schools require their teachers to have a minimum two years teaching experience prior to working abroad. Many U.S. Government agencies have opportunities abroad.

Many job search engines will have international postings. The internet is also a great way to find opportunities, albeit sometimes overwhelming. Google the field you're interested in plus the word abroad or international...or better yet, the specific area where you want to be. Here are a few websites that might be helpful:

<http://www.devnetjobs.org>

<http://workabroad.monster.com/>

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/index.shtml>

Many careers have an international focus but are based here in the States. If you are interested in the field of Study Abroad as a career, you may find the next section helpful.

# "I Want YOUR Job!"

## How to Find a Job in Study Abroad

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First things first:

- Study abroad! More than once, in different countries, if possible.
- Learn a second (or third) language.
- Work as a peer advisor, work study student, or intern in your school's study abroad or international programs office.

A BIG plus and strong recommendation:

- Get your masters degree (optimally in international studies/relations or student/personnel administration, but those two little letters after your name are really all that counts). If possible, integrate an internship with the international programs office into your masters program.

Recommended software skills:

- Learn all the Microsoft Office programs (especially PowerPoint).
- Learn to do simple design and layout in a desktop publishing program or, ideally with Adobe Illustrator.
- Learn how to design and maintain a website.
- Learn how to use a database program.

Reality check: if you want to work in study abroad (besides having done all of the above), you need to:

- Be flexible about what part of the country you're willing to work in.
- Start at the bottom.
- Not have dreams of becoming rich.
- Be proactive and send in your resume to organizations you think you'd like to work for (do your research first!) even if they haven't posted a job – there's lots of turnover in the field.

If you want to become a "Road Warrior" (e.g., traveling recruiter), optimally, you need to:

- Love airports and being in airplanes.
- Like to drive.
- Like spending time alone.
- Love staying in hotels.
- Preferably, be single, and not be in a committed relationship.
- Not be a pet owner.
- Not have a garden or houseplants (unless someone else can take care of them for you).

What other types of jobs are available in study abroad? Here are just a few examples:

- Program coordinator/advisor/director
- Overseas resident director
- Webmaster
- Database manager
- Marketing or external relations manager/director
- Academic director
- Credit transfer evaluator
- Budget manager/director

\*In many smaller study abroad offices, one person is often responsible for ALL of the above!\*

Networking/job searching tips:

- Get involved with NAFSA: Association of International Educators (for job directory, conferences, and general info about international education) and the Forum on Education Abroad <http://www.forumea.org/>.
- For job postings, sign up for Secuss-L by going to: [www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)
- Then choose "Shortcut for NAFSAns" in the drop-down box on the right
- Then choose "Secussa"
- Then choose "Secussa's Listserv" and follow the directions (it's important to read all the information – there are Secuss-I "police" who make sure you're using the listserv correctly!)
- Go to: <http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu> for a bibliography of study abroad information.
- Tell your study abroad director or advisor that you're interested in working in the field (study abroad is a very well-connected field; many advisors know other study abroad people all across the country and are familiar with many other study abroad offices, organizations, and programs).
- If you're not already familiar with Peterson's Guide (or [petersons.com](http://petersons.com)), Academic Year Abroad (published by IIE), [studyabroad.com](http://studyabroad.com), or [goabroad.com](http://goabroad.com), you should check them out to get a handle on how many different study abroad programs and organizations exist.

And finally, remember:

Study Abroad is only one part of the International Education Field, there are a gazillion universities/colleges/community colleges in this country who all offer study abroad, as well as innumerable "third-party providers" to consider in your job search. If you have the right background and skills set, and are flexible about where you work, with some research and networking, chances are good that you'll find a position in one of them.

Good Luck!

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