

# How to Market Your International Experience

## SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES GAINED FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

- Foreign language skills (Ex: Spanish, German, etc)
- Lead others in formal/informal groups
- Effectively participate in group discussions with people from diverse backgrounds
- Excellent intercultural communication skills
- Communicate despite barriers
- Highly developed cross-cultural communication skills combined with ability to motivate others to excel

### **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS**

- Global point of view
- Appreciation of diversity
- Cultural awareness
- Establish rapport quickly
- Understand an organization's culture
- Understand global dependence
- Sensitive to other cultural values, norms, customs and communication patterns,
- Tolerant of differences
- Open to new ideas and practices
- Empathetic toward other perspectives
- Thrive in multicultural settings with a diverse range of personalities and learning styles
- Able to work effectively as a part of a multinational/multicultural team
- Effective and knowledgeable in working in cross-cultural settings

### **ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS**

- Successfully juggle multiple demands
- Able to prioritize
- Time management skills
- General travel and navigational skills

### **INTRAPERSONAL SKILLS**

- Patience
- Function with a high level of ambiguity
- Achieve goals despite obstacles
- Take initiative and risks
- Accept responsibility
- Handle stress and difficult situations
- Learn/adapt quickly
- Cope with rejection
- Flexibility
- Assertive/self-confident
- Inquisitive
- Independence
- Learn through listening and observing
- Capacity to adapt and be flexible in new and changing situations
- Extremely adaptable and resourceful in new and challenging environments
- Capable of working in difficult and ambiguous settings
- Effective and cooperative team player who also works well independently
- Identify problems and utilize available resources to resolve them
- Positive outlook toward adversity



## **INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN YOUR RESUME**

### **Education**

**Palm Beach Atlantic University** | West Palm Beach, FL | Expected: May 2014  
B.A. in Cross Cultural Studies | GPA: 3.75/4.0

**University of Roehampton** | London, UK | Spring 2013  
Coursework in International Human Rights and Criminal Law

### **Skills/Qualifications**

- Bilingual: French-Proficient, Spanish-Intermediate
- 3 months of experience abroad in Peru
- International Business Program Travel Study to Brazil: Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo
- Personal and professional experience in research, mathematics, and fitness

## **INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN YOUR RESUME, Con't**

### **Travels/Community Service**

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**Gap year to travel in Asia** – 8 months 2012 – 2013

- China (studied Mandarin and Kung Fu), Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam

### **Community Service/Volunteering**

- Orphanage in the Philippines, Smokey Mountain, Manila (12 hours) February 2013
- Stiftung Solarenergie Foundation (NGO), Philippines (10 hours) February 2013

## **INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN YOUR COVER LETTER**

Consider briefly describing the skills and experiences gained from your international travel/living, and connect those to transferable skills for the position you are applying for. Let this be fresh information, not repeated on your resume. Highlight how your international experience make you a great candidate for their position. Below are examples from other cover letters:

### Example 1

At the age of 13 I traveled to Kenya, Africa, for the first time and my life has never been the same. When a desperate mother handed me her dying baby and asked me to pray for his healing, I knew I was called to be a nurse.

### Example 2

Last summer I served at a refugee camp in Greece, where I taught an adult literacy group of Syrians how to read and write English. It was there that I discovered a passion for working with adults and for the classroom setting.

### Example 3



Studying in Florence, Italy was more than just enjoying culture and eating great pasta. My experience taught me an appreciation and cultural understanding of being in the moment with people, and how to communicate effectively with those from diverse backgrounds. My internship in textiles exposed me to the true cost of fashion throughout the world, and changed my perspective of what I purchase and where I purchase from.

### **INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN AN INTERVIEW**

The interview allows you an opportunity to share how your international experience fits the needs of the company/organization. You can showcase skills by providing specific examples of how you gained those skills while overseas, and how this adds value to the employer. This is a way to make yourself memorable to the employer, and different from other candidates. Emphasize how your experience is necessary in an increasing global economy. Below are some sample Q&A's:

**Q:** Why did you decide to study abroad?

**A:** I intentionally decided to study abroad to increase my awareness of other cultures and gain an appreciation for doing and viewing things differently. I learned adaptability, flexibility, and that there can be more than one perspective or way of accomplishing the same goal.

**Q:** What did you learn while overseas that will help you be successful in this position? Or, tell me something you learned recently.

**A:** I learned how to resolve conflicts that were based on misunderstandings, wrong cultural assumptions, and cultural differences. For example. . . (share a story)

**Q:** What are you most proud of accomplishing while you were abroad? Or, what are your strengths?

**A:** Last semester I completed an internship (or volunteered) in Uganda with an organization that consisted mainly of native speaking individuals, and learned quickly how to communicate effectively despite not understanding the language fully. I've already prided myself on my ability to communicate. When I realized how I needed to adapt my style by using images and affirmation I was able to win the team over. Within two weeks we were able to effectively work as a team, build a clean water system, and impact an entire village.

**Q:** What was the most challenging aspect of living in another country? Or, what is a challenge or obstacle you had to overcome?

**A:** I got lost. A lot! I learned how to not only get directions, but who were the best people to ask directions from. After about a week, I downloaded an app and figured out on my own how to navigate the city, and within a short time was the one providing directions to others.