

How to Highlight Your Study Abroad Experience in a Job Search

Studying abroad allows you to develop skills and competencies that are increasingly valuable in today's globalized economy, including:

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Time Management
- Communication
- Organization/Planning
- Adaptability
- Independence/Responsibility
- Foreign Language
- Global Networking
- Commitment
- Intercultural Competence
- Stress Management
- Motivation/Initiative
- Creativity
- Confidence

The key to selling your time abroad is to show how your experiences relate to your professional development by citing real-world applications throughout your job search.

Résumé Tips:

- Focus on achievements and list concrete accomplishments
 - **Example:** Scholarships, specific courses, grades, transferrable skills
- List study programs in the education section and international internships under professional experience
- Alternatively, you could highlight your time abroad in a separate "Global Experiences" section

Cover Letter Tips:

- Align the skills and experiences you developed abroad to the job description
- Provide a brief overview of your experience abroad (2-3 sentences maximum)
- Describe how studying or interning abroad has influenced your career and life goals
- Make connections with your potential employer
 - **Example:** Explain how the cross-cultural communication skills you developed while studying abroad will be essential to a transnational corporation with an international clientele.

Job Interview Tips:

- Plan in advance how and when you will refer to your time abroad
 - **Example:** When responding to the prompt "Tell us something interesting about yourself."
- Use specific examples to demonstrate how you developed a particular skill
 - **Good:** "Studying abroad improved my time management skills."
 - **Better:** "While studying abroad, I balanced a full-time course load, language instruction, and student organizations, all while taking advantage of the opportunity to travel. This required me to prioritize my commitments and manage my time effectively."
- Explain how you overcame challenges while abroad
- Align the skills and experiences you developed abroad to the job description and interview questions
- Showcase how studying or interning abroad sets you apart from other candidates

Resources:

- Review the Comet Calendar for upcoming workshops and seminars offered by the Career Center
- Schedule an appointment with a Career Consultant to discuss your time abroad and review your résumé
- Practice your interview skills using Perfect Interview™ (available at utdallas.edu/career)
- Access Going Global for employment resources by country and city (available at utdallas.edu/career)

