

## CAREERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

### *Is it important for you to:*

- have day-to-day contact with people of varied backgrounds,
- enjoy travel as part of your work,
- use your imagination and foreign language skills to communicate something?

### *Have you enjoyed any of the following as a hobby or leisure-time activity:*

- Speak more than one language - at least semi-fluently,
- Intrigued by the customs and cultures of other countries,
- Enjoy traveling to new places,
- Always open to try different types of international cuisine,
- Spent time in another country-either as a tourist, an exchange student, or otherwise,
- Interested in global affairs?

### *Would you like to work in places such as:*

- foreign embassy, U.S. customs office, worldwide tour company, cruise line ship, U.S. corporation doing business internationally, foreign corporation doing business in the U.S., publisher who translates books into other languages?



### SOME RELATED OCCUPATIONS TO CONSIDER:

- **Buyer** - Represents domestic retailers in purchase of merchandise from foreign manufacturers and suppliers.
- **ESL Teacher** - Instructs foreign students of all ages in the comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing of English.
- **Foreign Correspondent** - Investigates and reports on international news stories, often from abroad.
- **Foreign Language Teacher** - Instructs students in the comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing of a foreign language.
- **Foreign Service Officer** - Formulates and implements United States foreign policy; analyzes and reports on political, economic, and scientific developments; manages public resources; assists Americans overseas; and protects the interests of U.S. businesses abroad.
- **Hotel Manager** - Supervises the overall operation of a hotel; must often communicate with guests from foreign countries.
- **Import/Export Clerk** - Utilizes knowledge of commercial and governmental procedures to arrange for shipment of merchandise and materials across international borders.
- **Interpreter** - Interprets speeches, conversations, questions, answers, and comments as they are spoken, to individuals or groups unfamiliar with the language.
- **Translator** - Translates commercial, literary, and technical printed material, often on a free-lance basis.
- **Travel Agent** - Coordinates transportation and accommodation arrangements for both individuals and groups.

Additional occupations to consider include:

- **Attorney, International Law**
- **College Professor**
- **Cruise Line Director**
- **Editor**
- **International Business/Finance Professional**
- **Political Scientist**
- **Resort Manager**
- **Tour Guide**

## *Study Abroad and Your Career*

A study abroad experience can be personally life-changing and professionally transformative. The value of a deeper appreciation for other cultures, languages, and customs can contribute to an enhanced world view, and engage you to see possibilities for you and your career that you had not seen before. You will likely develop enhanced skills, abilities, knowledge, and personal characteristics that you can leverage in your present and future career.

### *SOME HELPFUL SKILLS, ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS YOU DEVELOP FROM A STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE:*

#### *SKILLS and ABILITIES*

- Problem solving - especially under pressure,
- Thorough knowledge of grammar and vocabulary – in both English and another language of origin,
- Tact and diplomacy in navigating basic interactions,
- Ability to observe and listen carefully and to communicate clearly – both verbally and non-verbally,
- Handle ambiguity and confusion with greater flexibility and creativity
- Organizational skills and attention to detail – with travel arrangements, currency, etc.
- Time management,
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity.

#### *KNOWLEDGE*

- Research – travel, new locations, culture, etc.,
- Foreign Language,
- Educational systems and practices,
- Technical – operating technology, unfamiliar devices, machines in new locations, etc.,
- Awareness and deeper understanding of different cultures, languages, and customs,
- Laws, codes, ordinances in different international locations,
- Content specific to a career field, regional practices, etc.

#### *PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS*

- Enhanced maturity, self-awareness, self-confidence, and initiative,
- Flexibility, patience, and a developed sense of empathy for others,
- Adaptability, especially to new situations, locations, customs, etc.,
- Independence, perseverance, and being self-reliant,
- Open-mindedness, to different people from different backgrounds, and with different/unique experiences.

### *SOME HELPFUL CAREER AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION RESOURCES:*

- SUNY Study Abroad: [www.suny.edu/studyabroad](http://www.suny.edu/studyabroad)
- CCIS Abroad: [www.ccisabroad.org](http://www.ccisabroad.org)
- Peace Corps: [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages: [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org)
- International Hotel & Restaurant Association: [www.IH-RA.org](http://www.IH-RA.org)
- Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs: <http://apsia.org/careers>
- U.S. Department of State: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)
- U.S. Travel Association: [www.ustravel.org](http://www.ustravel.org)
- American Foreign Service Association: [www.afsa.org](http://www.afsa.org)
- American Political Science Association: [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)
- American Association of Exporters and Importers: [www.aaei.org](http://www.aaei.org)

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[www.ncc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.ncc.edu/studyabroad)  
[www.ncc.edu/careercounseling](http://www.ncc.edu/careercounseling)