BON VOYAGE: YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD

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DESCRIPTION

In an increasingly globalized world, experience studying or working in a new place is a valuable asset. Going abroad is also an amazing chance to broaden your horizons, stretch beyond your comfort zone, and meet people who might otherwise never cross your path.

This workshop will prepare you to make the most of your experience by providing strategies for finding global opportunities and helping you to assess the skills and qualities you'll need to successfully work abroad. We'll also discuss the international hiring process, and how you can present yourself as a desirable candidate for overseas hiring.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By attending this workshop, students will be able to:

1) Identify some of their reasons and preparedness for going overseas
2) Identify international skills they already possess
3) Effectively research programs such as youth exchanges, internships, professional exchanges, teaching abroad opportunities, volunteer, and independent work and travel programs, and summer opportunities
4) Understand the steps in the international hiring process.

MCGILL CAREER PLANNING SERVICE

WHAT WE DO

○ Programs & Resources
  • Career Leadership Program
  • McGill Mentor Program
  • Resource Centre with a library of 2500+ books, subscriptions, and multimedia resources
  • myFuture – our online career management system with access to job postings, employer database, workshop and event listing, and special resources
  • Go to www.mcgill.ca/caps for much much more!

○ Workshops & Events
  • Ongoing suite of workshops includes
    • How to Find a Job: Building Professional Relationships
    • How to Talk About Yourself: Interviewing Strategies
    • How to Write About Yourself: Effective Resumes and Cover Letters
    • Tailored workshops for specific departments available by request
    • Career days & Career Fairs
REASONS FOR GOING OVERSEAS
- to heighten your understanding of the world
- to learn new ways of living
- to improve your language skills
- to widen your professional experience
- to develop a whole new perspective on your field
- from the desire to travel
- from a sense of adventure and immersion in another culture
- to gain a heightened sense of what it means to be Canadian

ARE YOU READY FOR LIFE OVERSEAS?
- to be separated from your family, loved ones, friends?
- to live in another country where you may not understand the language?
- to eat new foods?
- to give up all the services and facilities you take for granted here in Canada - medical, legal, financial?
- perhaps to do without high speed internet? even phone connectivity issues?

SOME LOGISTICS
- Make an inventory of household effects
- Look after your debts
- Make a will
- Have a physical
- Gather together your important documents
- Get adapters for your electrical appliances
- Stock up on your pharmaceutical needs and necessities
- Get appropriate clothes for your destination
- Make a budget
- Say good-byes

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL TRAITS:
- Enjoy change
- Sense of Adventure
- Desire to Seek Challenges
- Open-Mind
- Patience
- Curiosity
- Take Initiative

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS
- International Experience Canada (IEC)  
  - Opportunities in 30+ countries
- AIESEC  
  [http://aiesec.ca/]
  - Marketing, Technology, Education and Engineering, etc.
- IAESTE  
  [http://iaestecanada.org/canadian-students/]
  - Engineering, Science, Technology, and Architecture, etc.
- SWAP Working Holidays  
  [http://www.swap.ca/]
  - Working holiday adventure
- Canada World Youth  
  [http://canadaworldyouth.org/]
  - Community-driven development projects
INTERNSHIPS

Opportunities to gain international work experience in your field.
Offered by Canadian-based organizations.
Some involve cost to the intern.
If salaries are paid, to cover living and travel expenses.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (IYIP)

- Sections: Health, gender equality, education, environmental sustainability, etc.
- For graduates and students in a development-related field.

Youth International

- For cultural exchange, adventure, community service, homestays.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) INTERNSHIPS

- Usually arrive with stipend for living.
- For graduate and students in a development-related field.

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES

- Usually require at least one year of relevant experience.
- Salaries often only cover travel expenses and a stipend for living.

For example:
- International Experience Canada (IEC) – Young Professionals
- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: Exchange Programs

TEACHING ABROAD

- A commitment of at least one year is usually required.
- Travel expenses are covered and a stipend is provided.
- Many require no prior experience.

Canadian Teachers’ Federation - Project Overseas (PO)

- http://www.ctf.org/students/international/Teaching-Opportunities.aspx
- JET program Canada (Teach in Japan)
- http://www.jicopteruma.ca/
- Teaching English in Korea
- Teach in France
- http://www.pedagogiescanadiennes.fr/enseignants.html
- World Teach
- http://www.worldteach.org/

WORK AND LEARN

Crossroads International
- Chantiers Jeunesse
- CUSO International
- http://www.cusointernational.org
- HOPE Int. Dev. Agency
- http://www.hopeinternational.com
- Canadian Environmental Network (rcen)
- http://www.rcen.ca

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- Must register in January.
- In tourism industry, agriculture, grape picking, summer and work camps.
- Food and lodging are not provided.

For example:
- Embassy of the United States: Ottawa Canada
- http://Canada.usembassy.gov/can/about-american-resources/internships-detail-american-residents.html
- Student Guide Program in France
- http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/stuideguide
- Association Quebec-France
- http://www.quebecrfrance.ca/
- HelpX
- http://www.helpx.net/index.asp

OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Undergraduate Study Abroad: Academic year or semester
- McGill has established exchange programs or agreements with universities in Europe, Americas, Asia & Middle East, and Oceania.
- Application deadlines vary.
- Minimum requirement is generally with a CGPA 3.0.

For example:
- McGill - Options for Studying Abroad
- http://www.mcgill.ca/students/international/overseas
- IIE Passport.org
- http://iiepassport.org/
- StudyPortals – short-courses portal
- http://www.shortcoursesportal.com
OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Graduate Study Abroad
- Overseas universities welcome non-nationals with undergraduate degrees.
- Many more scholarships and bursaries for graduate students.
- Even if you are currently enrolled, opportunities are numerous.
- Vary in length, formality and structure.
- Your faculty and our website
- Summer and Short-Term Programs
- Prefer not to interrupt school year.
- Cultural and language programs
- Less cross-cultural.

INDEPENDENT WORK AND TRAVEL

Several countries issue working holiday visas to youth for periods ranging from six months to two years.
- Finding employment & travel is your responsibility.
- Job offer or friends/relatives to help you.

For example:
- Australia
- Ireland
- Japan
- New Zealand
- UK
- Netherlands
- USA (months)
- India
- South Africa
- Thailand
- Vietnam

THE INTERNATIONAL HIRING PROCESS

- Lead times are longer
- Accept a job that pays your bills
- Organize your affairs so you can leave on short notice.
- Do not make irreversible decisions based on a tentative job offer. Only a signed contract will do.
- Speak to the managers, rather than HR, or contact both.
- Nurture your contacts and make new ones.

PHASES OF AN INTERNATIONAL JOB SEARCH

- Self-Evaluation
  - Personal and professional skills
  - Target country/countries
  - Target job type
- The international resume
- Research
- Network
- Target firms or countries
- Contact search firms
- Applying for the Job
  - Apply to postings
  - Using the phone
  - Write a cover letter
  - The job interview

THE INTERNATIONAL C.V.

CAREER OBJECTIVE: Able to address: geographic setting, field of work and level of entry.

PERSONAL TRAITS: Able to summarize who you are.
- Soft skills or transferable skills

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:
- Hard skills, those learned in school.
- Include your international skills.

EDUCATION
WORK EXPERIENCE
PERSONAL DATA
- Age
- Marital Status and Dependents
- Spouse’s Occupation
- Availability
- Languages
- Nationality and National Origin
- Foreign Travel

QUESTIONS TO PREPARE FOR

- Why do you want to work for ________?
- Why should we choose you for this particular job?
- If a friend or colleague were describing you, what are the key characteristics they would mention?
- How do you deal with stress or pressure? Give examples.
- How do you resolve interpersonal conflicts? Give examples.
- Describe any significant cross-cultural experience you have had.
- What is your management style? How will it work at ________?
- What sort of development activities do you feel have the greatest impact?
DEVELOPING YOUR INTERNATIONAL IQ

Political, economic and geographic knowledge
- Listen regularly to international news broadcasts
- Subscribe to international e-newsletters
- Join a multicultural club at McGill

Knowledge about the international aspects of your field
- Find out about organizations that work internationally in your field
- Talk to profs about your plans

DEVELOPING YOUR INTERNATIONAL IQ (2)

Crosscultural knowledge and skills
- Find out about the country's belief systems, modes of behaviours and attitudes.
- Learn to speak the country's main language.

Personal coping and adapting skills
- Have a sense of adventure, humour, curiosity and patience.
- Participate in organizations with other cultures.
- If you can, visit the country.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?