Study Abroad: increasing your potential for career success

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What you will learn
• Identify some of the reasons and evaluate how prepared you are for going overseas
• Identify and articulate marketable skills you could gain while on exchange.
• Learn how your study abroad experience can help you find work, increase your cultural awareness, and build flexibility, confidence, and communication skills.
• Become aware of the skills employers are seeking and how your international experience can align with their needs.
• List at least 3 international skills you already possess.

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 global experience
✓ to develop a whole new perspective on your field
✓ to gain a heightened sense of what it means to be Canadian or from your country of origin
✓ from the desire to travel
✓ from a sense of adventure and immersion in another culture

Why Study Abroad
• OECD in 2009 more than 3,7m studying outside country
• PWC predicts by 2050 the E7 (China, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey) will be 50% larger than the G7 countries (U.S., UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan) when measured by GDP at market rates.
• Employers need employees with skills necessary in the global workforce (study by British Council).
• The Global Risks Report 2014 indicates high unemployment/underemployment as a top global risk over the next decade.

Studies show
• Have better grades, less attrition, and graduate at higher rates
• Indiana University – earned higher grades
• SAGE research project of 6000 alumni over 50 years – substantial long-term impact on individuals’ career paths and global engagement

Research by Trooboff, in the Vande Berg, and Rayman
• In recruiting candidates, employers rated interpersonal skills higher than others
• Employers value both study abroad and internships abroad to a greater extent than all but one other type of educational experience: majoring or minoring in a foreign language
• They believe that the longer the program the more value it has, and plays high value on experiential learning
Are You Ready for Life Overseas?

• for major adjustments in your home and work life?
• 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 live with new security considerations, possible political instability, crime, corruption, major class differences?

Adapted from The Canadian Guide to Working and Living Overseas by J.M. Hachey

What do employers say?

• AIM Overseas reported 61% - positive on a resume – 72% second language appealing -95% of students useful with regard to their future career plans
• QS Global employer survey – 10,000 hiring managers and CEOs in 116 nations -60%
• IES Abroad, 90% alumni –found first job 6 months
• U.S. News –ability to adapt to changing circumstances and willingness to learn from experience

Additional benefits

• Acquire survival skills and resilience
• Understand cultural and business differences
• Negotiate successfully with a foreign culture
• Build an international network
• Become internationally savvy

International General Traits:

• Enjoy change
• Sense of Adventure
• Desire to Seek Challenges
• Open-Mind
• Patience
• Curiosity
• Take Initiative

Ranking of Personal Qualities for all Employers

• Self motivated, shows initiative
• Listens and observes well
• Flexible, adapts well
• Curious, wants to discover more
• Non-judgmental towards other world views
• Willing to take risks to learn new things
• Recognizes on worldview is not universal
Ranking of Skills for all Employers

- Works effectively outside of comfort zone
- Communicates effectively intercultural situations
- Understands global economy, political trends
- Well informed world events/history
- Effective socializing/doing business elsewhere
- Knowledgeable other history/culture

International Skills Wheel

Add value to your experience

- Get involved
- Join a student group
- Volunteer for an organization
- Mix with people from different cultures
- Look for experiential learning opportunities
- Come to CaPS for help with your CV, resources, ideas

Developing Your International IQ

- Political, economic and geographic knowledge
  - Listen regularly to international news broadcasts
  - Own a world atlas
  - Subscribe to international e-newsletters or newspapers
  - 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.

What CaPS Has to Offer

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
- CaPS Job Listings Database for full-time, summer and part-time jobs and internships
- myFuture
- www.mcgill.ca/caps
- On-campus recruitment in fall and winter
- Career Fairs

**CAREER EDUCATION**
- Individual advising
- Workshops
- Career Resource Library
- Going Global – VPN
- My WorldAbroad
- Vault Career Insider
- Mentor Program
- PACE Program