



JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Advice for International Students

Be Prepared - International students can be successful in the job search process by being exceptionally prepared and proactively utilizing the resources available through the Career Services Office. We are here to help you develop and strengthen your resume and cover letter, as well as to prepare for career fairs, interviews, and the job search process. To schedule an appointment, visit <http://tinyurl.com/coba-csoappt>

Get Involved - Employers in the U.S. seek candidates who are active on campus in student clubs and volunteering as well as hold campus jobs and leadership roles. Having a strong GPA is not enough to be a competitive candidate in today's economy.

Obtain an Internship - It is critical to have work experience in your field! Utilize the resources in the Career Services Office to help you search and identify internship opportunities. You must have internship experience in order to be considered for full-time opportunities in the U.S. Obtaining an internship is important not only in terms of resume building, but in terms of its potential to translate into a full-time job after graduation.

Practice and Polish - your language skills. Strong communication skills are heavily sought after by employers. Hone your written and verbal communication skills. Take advantage of mock interview opportunities to polish your interview skills.

Market Yourself Positively - It is very important for international students to turn employers' objections into positives. Be prepared to tell employers how hiring you offers more advantages than disadvantages.

Be Flexible - Expand your job search by considering jobs outside your desired career or geographic location.

Patience and Persistence - Although finding employment as an international student can be challenging, it is not impossible. Each year the U.S. grants almost 200,000 H1-B visas. You must be exceptionally prepared in this process.

Build Relationships - with friends, professors, other students and staff of the university.

Become familiar with the **visa application** processes. You must be able to educate potential employers on the CPT and OPT processes in the US. Many are not familiar with the processes and shy away unnecessarily.

How to Find Job Openings

About 20% of the jobs that exist in the U.S. are advertised in trade magazines, or on the Internet. The other 80% of job openings are in the "hidden" job market and are never advertised. These positions are filled by word of mouth. For this reason, it is important to build relationships with individuals in industries, companies, and positions of interest to you. Contacts include friends, classmates, neighbors, family members, professors, alumni, and community members.

Identifying Viable Companies

The best employment prospects for international students may be with international companies. International students are strong assets to global organizations desiring language skills, respect for diversity, and/or knowledge of overseas economies.

The U.S. job search, however, is largely dependent on candidates' communication skills and leadership ability. Students who strengthen their language skills, actively build relationships with faculty, staff, and employers, as well as utilize available resources have a higher likelihood of successfully obtaining employment in the U.S.

Approaching the Topic of H1-B Visas with Employers

The primary problem surrounding the H-1B application process is the number of visas available and the high demand for them. Many employers are intimidated by the U.S. immigration process and are reluctant to sponsor H1-B visas, or simply have a policy against it.

Do not begin an employment interview or letter with an inquiry regarding H1-B sponsorship. Discussions about H1-B sponsorship should come later, either when the employer brings it up or when you are offered a position. Your first task in an interview is to convince the employer of your suitability for the job.



JOB & INTERNSHIP RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Resume & Cover Letter Assistance

You will need a strong resume and cover letter for every job and internship application you submit. In order to be a competitive candidate for an internship or full-time job, you need to take initiative to volunteer in the community, join a student club, and have on-campus work experience. Employers in the U.S. pursue candidates who are actively involved in their university.

The Career Services Office will assist you in creating a strong resume and cover letter. Visit our office to review your resume and cover letter and ensure you are presenting the strongest job search documents possible. Please schedule an appointment with the Career Services Office by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/coba-csoapppt>

Job & Internship Search

A job or internship search takes a multitude of resources and strategies. The following resources provide a variety of lists of potential sponsoring employers, occupational outlooks and job opportunities. Utilize these resources to build your job search strategy and targeted employer list.

- Going Global: Accessible through Experience Job & Internship Board - experience.kent.edu
- List of H1B Employers - www.myvisajobs.com/Reports/2014-H1B-Visa-Sponsor.aspx
- International Student Website – Student Work - www.internationalstudent.com/jobsearch
- U.S. Department of Labor - www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pdf/h_1b_temp_visa.pdf
- H1 Base Top Occupations List - www.h1base.com/visa/work/H1BvisaBestOccupationProfessionRanking/ref/1576
- "Power Ties: The International Student's Guide to Finding a Job in the United States," by Dan Beaudry (book)
- "3 Steps to Your Job in the USA: International Student Edition," by S. Steinfield & H. Yinping (book)

Visa Information

When searching for jobs or internships, it is important to understand the job search process associated with each visa type. Employers may have false assumptions about visa limitations, costs or processes, and it is important to be able to provide accurate information to potential employers. The following resources provide visa information.

- U.S. Department of Labor - www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/howdoi.cfm
- H1 Base Website - www.h1base.com
- MyVisaJobs.com - www.myvisajobs.com

Education Resources

The following resources are helpful when exploring and continuing education options, institutions and processes.

- Education USA - www.educationusa.info
- Institute for International Education - iie.org
- "International Student Handbook 2013: All-new 26th Edition," by The College Board (book)

Transitional Resources

The U.S. cultural and employment norms may be quite different for an international student transitioning to the U.S. The following resources provide information on cultural norms, educational requirements, obtaining visas and transition information.

- International Student - www.internationalstudent.com/resources
- "Crossing Customs: International Students Write on U.S. College Life and Culture," by Jay Davis and Andrew Garrod (book)
- "Succeeding as an International Student in the U.S. and Canada," by C. Lipson & A.E. Goodman (book)