
Job Search Tips for International Students

International Students may have additional challenges in the job search process. Think about those issues now and prepare to deal with them in a positive way. Below you will find some of these issues and how they may be addressed.

- Stay connected to UCSD's International Student Center where there are advisors/services that can help you with your questions. Most forms and advice you need will be located here.
- Deal with concerns about your immigration status. Know how your status relates to employment possibilities by speaking with your International Student Advisor. Practice responding to this issue.
- Identify the right industry and field for you as an international student. Multinational/global corporations and NGO's often hire non-US citizens. Large organizations may be more familiar with the immigration process and thus, be less intimidated. Some state and local governments may hire non-US citizens, especially for internships. On the other hand, there will be less competition for jobs at smaller and rural companies and organizations.
- Secure summer employment, internships or practical training. The experience you gain will be helpful when you are ready to seek career opportunities after graduation.
- Networking is THE key to finding a position. Talk with advisors, faculty, friends, career counselors, international student advisors, and alumni who may hear of openings or know of American employers hiring international students. You can also network with ethnic communities, nationality clubs, and alumni from your own country. Network with others from your own country who are officers/owners of companies and others from your home country who have jobs here. You can also talk with former international students with jobs/internships from ANY country. Be able to approach strangers too and say what you do well and ask the question of everyone you meet, "Whom do you know that knows anything about . . .?" To help you with your networking, build lead lists. Define the type of company or organization you are interested in and then go out and find examples of them.
- If you are interested in a particular type of job/organization, write a paper about it for a class. Identify exporters to your home country and identify US companies active in areas of the world where your skills and language would be an asset. Use references like, the *Directory of US Firms Operating in Foreign Countries* and the *Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the US*. Locate a chamber of commerce that regulates/promotes trade between your home country and the US.
- Put extra effort into writing a resume/cover letter that highlight your appropriate skills/experience. No personal information like photos, birthdate, birthplace or marital status should be included. In the American job market, your qualifications must be superior to those of other candidates.
- Bridge the cultural gap. Work on your American English skills. Consider accent reduction classes and spend more time with native speakers to improve your English and to learn customs. Some points about American culture to keep in mind.
 - Interviewers expect you to convey confidence in yourself and your abilities. Be prepared to engage in small talk at the beginning of the interview, to speak directly, and to talk about yourself by emphasizing your strengths and taking credit for your accomplishments. Have examples ready to demonstrate your knowledge and skills.
 - Though directness is important, it is equally important to be polite and it is important to look people in the eye when speaking to them.
 - A firm handshake is important when greeting people as well as appearance and grooming
- Useful websites: h1visajobs.com, h1base.com, bilingual.jobs.com, foreignmba.com, workabroad.monster.com, diversityinc.com
- Lastly, be sure to make back up plans.