

LEVERAGE YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

W

FOSTER
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



STUDY ABROAD TIMELINE

1. Pre-departure
2. While Abroad
3. Returning Home

Pre-departure

- Research host country's culture
- Resume review
- Put together a Study Abroad Career Plan
 - Set learning outcomes specific to career goals
 - Brainstorm a list of learning activities:
 - Connect with professors
 - Conduct informational interviews
 - Job shadow
 - Network
 - Volunteer/internship



While Abroad

MAXIMIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

- Plan and participate in learning activities
- Recognize trigger moments
- Reflective journaling/blogging
- Stay connected to Foster Career Services
- Study abroad experience & career integration mentality



Returning Home

- Debrief and reflect
- Apply new experience to your internship/job search
- Practice sharing your study abroad experience
 - Mock Interviews
 - Friends & Family
 - Info sessions

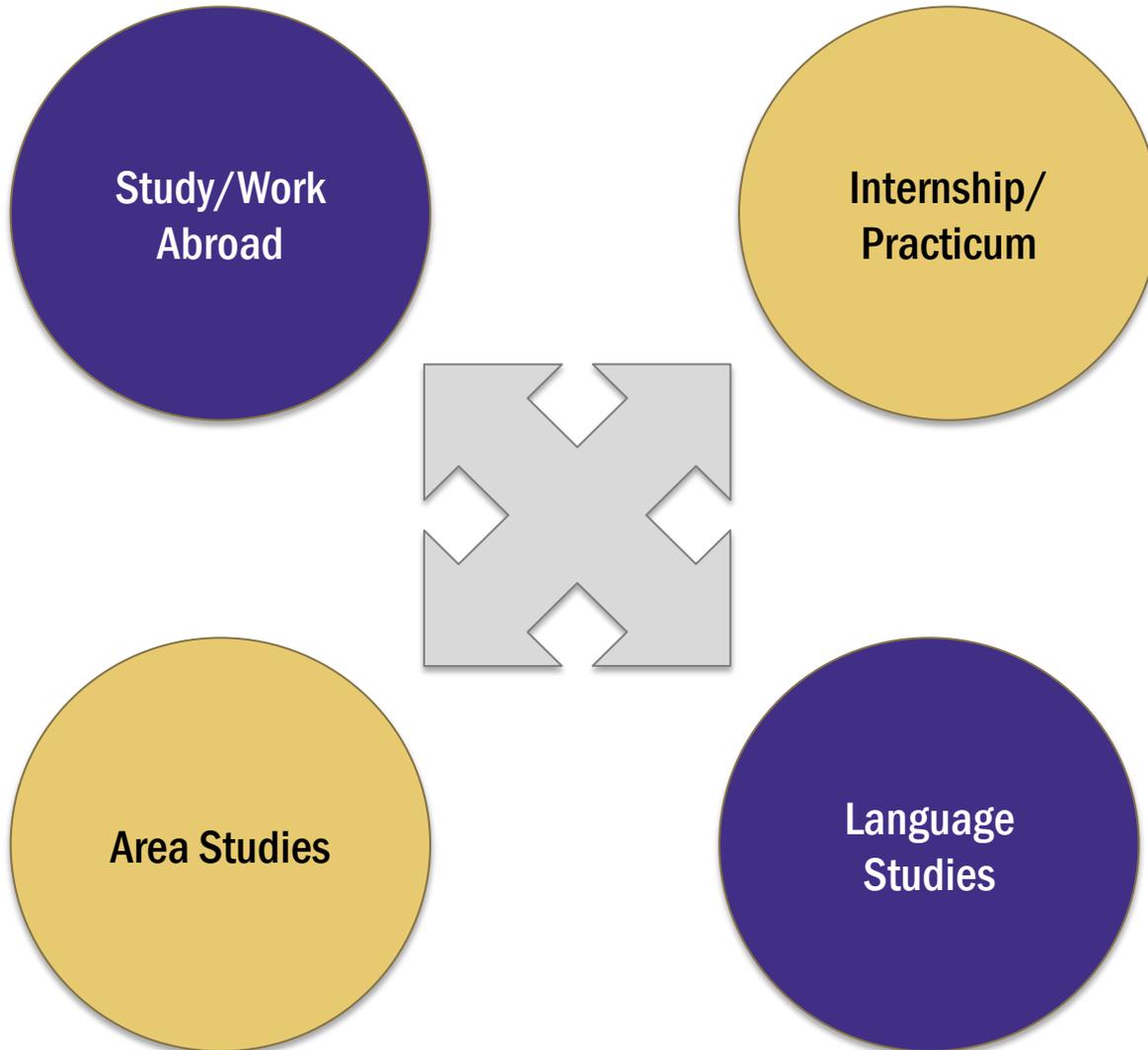




CAREER SKILLS

Differentiate yourself through your experiences

Your international experience includes:



What do employers value?

Critical
thinking

Ability to
communicate
clearly

Solve complex
problems

Intercultural
skills &
understanding

Working with
diverse people

*Source: NACE Leveraging Education Abroad for Employability webinar

Potential skills through international experience



*Chapman, V.V. (2012). "Maximizing the Career Development of Students Who Study Abroad." National Career Development Association. Career Convergence Magazine. http://associationdatabase.com/aws/NCDA/pt/sd/news_article/59803/_PARENT/layout_details_cc/false

Activity: International Experience Story Bank

- 1) Brainstorm stories in different sections and list skills/competencies demonstrated.



- 2) Share a few of your stories with a partner – are there any skills/competencies you overlooked?
- 3) Be prepared to share with the larger group an example of a story and the corresponding skills/competencies.

RESUME & COVER LETTER

Articulate your international experience on paper

Resume

- Include study abroad under Education
- International Experience – Volunteer Experience, Related Experience, International Experience, Other Experience

Start with an action verb

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graph TD; A[Start with an action verb] --> B[Add information to provide context (type of event/program, situation, idea, documents, roles/responsibilities)]; B --> C[Look for opportunities to include metrics, value add & accomplishments];
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Add information to provide context
(type of event/program, situation, idea,
documents, roles/responsibilities)

Look for opportunities to include
metrics, value add &
accomplishments

Magnify your experience

Differentiate yourself!

- Include what you learned, gained, accomplished while abroad

EDUCATION:

Foster School Shanghai Program – 4-week Study Abroad

Summer 2014

- Gained an international perspective on Chinese manufacturing operations and accounting through in-class activities and participation during 5 Chinese company site visits.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Global Business Case Competition – Spring 2015

Seattle, WA

- Addressed strategies to increase client's profits in a 15-minute pitch resulting in 2nd place
- Led a team of 4 on competitor research and analyzed industry trends to support the strategy plan

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

English Tutor, Ecole élémentaire publique; Lyon, France

August 2013 – January 2014

- Created and taught daily lesson plans to practice English skills for 15 students, ages 7 to 9
- Strengthened French communication skills through interaction with students, parents, and tutors
- Integrated cross-cultural learning through weekly activities, including multi-lingual guest speakers

Activity: Personalize your resume

- 1) Skim through the entire job description (last page of handout).
- 2) Highlight the desired skills/competencies; identify any keywords or qualities emphasized in the job description.
- 3) Select one skill/competency and pick an example from your story bank that best illustrates the skill.
- 4) Write a bullet point. Format your bullet point statement as:

Action verb + Details of task/responsibility/project + Result/value added

- 5) Share your statement with a partner and ask for feedback.
- 6) Provide feedback on your partner's statement.

What's in a cover letter?

1st paragraph:

- Interest in position
- How you heard about position

Body paragraphs:

- Relevant experience & accomplishments
- More details than resume
- Knowledge of company

Final paragraph:

- Reiterate interest and qualification
- Ask for an interview

What value do you bring to a company?



TELLING YOUR STORY

A thick white horizontal bar with a slight upward curve on the right end, positioned below the main title.

Know Yourself

Evaluate the value of your international experience to the position

Experience comes from:

FT/PT Work

Class Projects

Clubs/Organizations

Internships

Volunteering

International Experience

- Know what's on your resume top to bottom
- Everything is fair game for questions from interviewer
- Understand how your international experience differentiates you as a candidate

Know the position

Read the job description!

- Think about relevant skills/knowledge and previous experience matching the position
- Be ready to answer questions about these skills

Responsibilities, required skills and experience	Related experience (examples)
1. Ability to deal with complexity	1. Experience A
2. Written & verbal communication	2. Experience B
3. Cross-cultural competency	3. Experience C

Tell me about a time...

Use the STAR technique to answer behavioral questions

Situation

- What was the situation?

Task

- What task were you asked to accomplish?

Action

- What steps did you take to accomplish the task?

Result

- What was the result of your action steps?

Tell me about a time when you dealt with people who had different work styles.

Situation

- Study abroad in Singapore

Task

- Class project with students from other countries
- Different work styles and habits

Action

- Made effort to improve ability to work cross-culturally
- Sat down with 2 team members to understand what I could do better

Result

- Took initiative to learn how to work effectively with people of different backgrounds
- Challenged myself to work on improving my skills

Activity: Preparing for interviews

- 1) Select an experience from your experience bank which demonstrates a skill from the job description
- 2) Format your answer following the STAR method
- 3) Practice telling your story to your partner
- 4) PARTNER: Listen to your partner's story and complete the STAR table based on their story
- 5) PARTNER: Provide feedback to your partner on their story:
 - a. Did the story follow the STAR format?
 - b. Could the answer be more concise? Or did it need more details?
 - c. Did the action steps address one of the skills in the job description?
 - d. Was a result clearly communicated at the end of the story?

What's your story?

- Conversation starter
- Interview question
- Find opportunities



It's your job to connect the dots for the employer!



Next Steps:

- Study abroad career plan
- Debrief & reflect on international experiences
 - “We don’t learn by doing, we learn by reflecting on what we’ve done”
- Resume & cover letter review
- Participate in mock interviews

Foster Career Coaches can help you!
Make an appointment or stop by during drop-ins!

QUESTIONS?

Natalie Chan

Assistant Director – Foster Career Services

Dempsey 212 (next door down from Academic Advising)

Drop-ins: Monday – Thursday; 12:30-3:30PM

Individual appointments: Monday-Friday; 8:00-4:30PM