

## Starting Points: Working Abroad

### Why work abroad?

**Enhance your employability** - Experiencing different perspectives and practices can give you an edge in an increasingly global job market. Securing a job abroad shows initiative and determination. An understanding of different cultures could strengthen your multicultural communication/teamwork skills and prove your adaptability. In a globally competitive business environment today, such skills will be highly sought after.

**Personal Development** - Adapting to new cultural norms, perhaps a new language as well as becoming completely self-reliant are some of the ways in which you can develop. Working abroad can help you develop resilience, test your ability to adapt to situations and can open up opportunities to learn about local customs and traditions. Many students and graduates will learn to cook new dishes, make life-long new friends and may combine working abroad with travel within one trip, allowing them to explore neighboring cities and countries.

**Language skills** - What better way to learn a new language or improve existing skills?

**Altruistic reasons** - A range of opportunities to work or volunteer in the developing world or in conservation.

### Types of work

**Internships and exchanges** - Aimed specifically at students and recent graduates.

**Temporary and seasonal work** - A majority of this work is in the hospitality and tourism sector. Au pair and summer camp work is also common.

**Volunteering** - Usually working with local communities in the developing world.

Think about the sustainability of projects and value for both volunteers and host communities. The quality of projects varies so RESEARCH THOROUGHLY. [There are some good guidelines and a series of questions you should ask an organisation that you are looking to volunteer through on <http://www.ethicalvolunteering.org/guide.html>](#) Seek further advice from previous volunteers and the Careers and Employability service. Also consider costs carefully - some programmes are expensive but some cost little or nothing. **Teaching** - Qualified teachers may find jobs in international schools and Teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) is open to students/graduates of all disciplines.

**Professional graduate roles with a multinational company, government department or NGOs** -

Examples include accountancy, engineering and law firms with international offices or international development work. These jobs usually require UK experience first.

### Don't forget the practicalities!

- ALWAYS check your destination is safe on [gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)
- Get adequate insurance and ensure you get any vaccinations needed.
- Think about costs and financial implications.

### Where can I work?

In theory, anywhere! The world is your oyster (but with some limitations)

**Europe** - European Union nationals have the right to work in any other EU member state (and Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) without a work permit. (Although this could change - keep an eye on any changes occurring due to Brexit.)

**The USA** - Temporary seasonal work, including summer camps. Accessing longer term opportunities is more complex.

**The wider world** - Countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Japan offer working

holiday visas that allow 18 - 30 year olds to work and travel for up to a year.

## Further information and useful resources (NOT exhaustive!)

[targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad](http://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad) - country profiles including visa info.

**AIESEC** - [aiesec.co.uk](http://aiesec.co.uk) - low cost or free volunteering, paid teaching opportunities, graduate internships, leadership activities and more.

**The British Council** - offer a wide range of no fee (and sometimes paid) opportunities including a graduate scheme, teaching and volunteering opportunities. They also offer funding for two month internships in China -

[britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/opportunity/internships/china](http://britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/opportunity/internships/china) and are partner in the Erasmus + scheme - [britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/opportunity/study-abroad](http://britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/opportunity/study-abroad) which helps students to work or study in Europe during their degree.

**TEFL** - a thorough job profile including entry requirements and vacancy sources -

[prospects.ac.uk/english\\_as\\_a\\_foreign\\_language\\_teacher\\_job\\_description.htm](http://prospects.ac.uk/english_as_a_foreign_language_teacher_job_description.htm)

Non-commercial (but paid) schemes include - The JET scheme (Japan) - [jet-uk.org/index.php](http://jet-uk.org/index.php)

Teach English in China - [teic.co.uk](http://teic.co.uk), English Program in Korea - [epik.go.kr:8080/index.do](http://epik.go.kr:8080/index.do) and British Council schemes.

**Public sector opportunities** - The Civil Service Fast Stream includes two diplomatic service streams - [faststream.gov.uk](http://faststream.gov.uk) You could also look for other opportunities in relevant government departments on [civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi](http://civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi) The European Union [epso.europa.eu/job-opportunities/students-and-graduates\\_en](http://epso.europa.eu/job-opportunities/students-and-graduates_en) - [recruits](http://recruits) graduates for generalist and specialist roles.

**International Citizenship Service** - [volunteerics.org](http://volunteerics.org) - a UK funded development programme for 18-25 year olds to volunteer

**Links to opportunities to Volunteer abroad:** [yearoutgroup.org](http://yearoutgroup.org) - an association of mostly UK registered organisations that offer volunteering programmes abroad. [bunac.org/uk/volunteer-abroad](http://bunac.org/uk/volunteer-abroad) - ethical, low-cost volunteering programmes across Africa, Asia and the Americas. [frontier.ac.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer.aspx](http://frontier.ac.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer.aspx) - opportunities to volunteer in and work in a range of countries. [campamerica.co.uk](http://campamerica.co.uk) - Jobs on summer camps within USA.

## Want to talk it through?

Contact Careers and Employability for further advice and support via the below contact details. This information is available in alternative formats on request.