



TRANSLATING 'I STUDIED ABROAD'

From Classes to Career - interview focus

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TODAY'S GOAL

Learn how language
and other soft skills that
you gain abroad can
help you professionally
(Interview focus)



FUNDAMENTALS



Global = global

- U.S. population is impacted (education, legislation, boardrooms, media, environment...) by how the world works
- Geographic/economic borders can protect but walls or other 'safety' measures will not change this



Today's undergraduate = tomorrow's leader

- U.S. competitiveness and influence will depend on a globally-aware U.S. population
- Today's UWEC Freshman class joins the workforce starting in 2020



Leadership attributes

- Ability to work in or lead a team of diverse thinking styles, beliefs, cultures
- Adaptable and flexible in unfamiliar situations / Initiative / Entrepreneur / Risk-Taker
- Aware of economic systems and politics
- Effective communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries

'I STUDIED ABROAD, BUT...'

- How are you articulating this experience as you prepare for the workforce?
- *Study abroad* or *foreign language fluency* do not always top the list of desired experience or skills
 - Caveat: [Foreign language skills - US Job Market \(Mar 2017\)](#)
- How do I...?
 - elevate this beyond a bullet point on my resume?
 - make this more interview-relevant than 'it was life-changing'?

'HOW DO I TRANSLATE *STUDY ABROAD* IN A JOB INTERVIEW?'

- First, consider all aspects of your experience abroad: housing, academics, travel, student clubs, volunteering, internship
 - Who did you meet? What did you learn? How did you impact?
- Think of specific elements which could provide a direct benefit to an organization, institution or company
- Consider career implications
 - starting from now when you decide on an international program
 - ...to challenges overcome while abroad, your applied learnings
 - ...to job interviews where you're asked to describe your skills or attributes
- **Tip:** review Job Descriptions that interest you after graduation, highlight desired skills or attributes



EXAMPLE: TRANSLATING MY EXPERIENCE

- FRENCH MAJOR / SPANISH MINOR
- FRANCE AND SPAIN SEMESTERS ABROAD
- GAP YEAR OF WORK BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR

Forecast or address
business situations
from a different
cultural frame of
reference

Take personal risks;
act independently

Flexible and
adaptable to rapidly
changing work
environments

Contribute to an
ethnically diverse
team

Self-confident, yet
able to listen and
learn from people
whose value systems
are different

'I CAN NOT STUDY ABROAD...'

- Really? Truly...??
- Timing, finances => no undergraduate time abroad?
- What to do
 1. Make an appointment with UWEC's **Center for International Education**
 2. Intern with US-based international company
 3. Select specific non-US news sources; review daily
 4. Find your focus - a region, a country - what's trending?
 5. Join a student organization with international focus
 6. Interview UWEC students who studied abroad
 7. Interview UWEC students from EU/Americas/Asia/Africa - keep in contact!

YOU'RE PREPARING FOR AN INTERVIEW...

My global thinking skills

- Do I follow the news from multiple countries on a regular basis?
- When news happens in one country, do I often think of its implications on other countries?
- Can I describe political parties from at least one country on each major continent?

My language / communication skills

- In what languages am I fluent (spoken/written/read)?
- Do I have a network of professional contacts in other countries?
- Am I able to recognize different meanings in gesturing from more than one culture?

My knowledge of culture (traditional & popular)

- With what cultures and nationalities have I had close dealings?
- Am I familiar with ethnic or religious traditions beyond my own? With cultural, religious or national festivals and their significance?
- Can I identify traditional and/or contemporary art from abroad?
- Am I familiar with social trends abroad (music, fashion, movies)?

YOU'RE PREPARING FOR AN INTERVIEW...

My knowledge of
business employment
practices

- Can I articulate similarities and differences of predominant management styles in more than one country?
- Am I familiar with labor laws and/or hiring practices in other countries?

My ability to adapt

- How long does it generally take me to settle into a new environment?
- How long do I feel it will take to make an impact in a new job?
- When did I last take a risk? What did I gain / lose?

Why did I participate in an
international experience?
How did I choose my
program and location?

When have I used my
presentation skills to influence
someone's opinion?

What skills did I learn abroad?
How could these skills be
applied to this company?

TRY THIS...

Think of 1-2 key questions to **ask** your interviewer / employer that demonstrate:

Your global mindset

Your language / communication skills

Your cultural awareness

Your knowledge of business employment outside US

Your adaptability

Other skills or attributes* relevant to a job that interests you

* See tip slide 5



THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

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NEXT STEPS

If you have
already gone
abroad

Attend:
'Resume Writing Workshop'
Monday March 13
3:30-4:30pm
Where: Centennial 1920

If you are
interested in
going abroad

Make an appointment:
Center for International
Education
715-836-4411
Where: 3, Schofield