

Resume Tips on International Experience for Students

Skills

Outline skills you gained or enhanced during your international experience:

- Improved foreign language proficiency
- Developed awareness of global economic and political issues and realities
- Increased awareness of cultural differences
- Enhanced cultural awareness and understanding of customs
- Intensified understanding of others' cultural views of the United States
- Increased confidence in working with individuals and groups from other cultures
- Gained independence in taking risks and dealing with unfamiliar situations
- Demonstrated ability to problem-solve and handle difficult situations
- Deepened understanding of lack of resources available in other countries
- Improved personal skills in organizational management, handling budget, patience, adaptability, flexibility
- Improved communication skills including listening and observation
- Increased ability to maintain an open mind and be tolerant of others
- Expanded ability and willingness to travel
- Improved skills and knowledge in my discipline such as

Resume

Always include international experience on the resume, even if you do not think it relates to your objective. It almost always does. Examples:

Study Abroad Program:

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree in French
St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN May 2006

International Study Program of French Language and Culture
University of Social Sciences, Toulouse, France Spring 2004

Internship Experience:

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Internship, Marketing, Wilbur-Ellis Company, Brighton, Australia Aug-Dec 2004
Assisted with creating strategies for marketing agricultural products
Handled promotional business accounts

Employed position:

WORK EXPERIENCE

Laborer, Washerei, Wyk auf Fohr, Germany, Summer 2003
Worked and communicated in German with supervisors and co-workers
Travel throughout Germany and visited historical sites

Travel Experience:

List experiences in skills, accomplishments section

Traveled throughout seven countries in Europe during summer of 2004

Utilized speaking skills of three languages, French, German, Italian

Cover Letter

How does your international experience relate to your field?

Know your objective and career field in which you intend to work.

My studies in Japan provided me with a great insight into the cultural differences that influence consumers in different countries and will improve my ability to contribute to international marketing initiatives.

If your career goals do not include a specific international dimension, you can promote the general transferable skills that apply to most career fields.

The Interview

Plan in advance how and where you will refer to your experience abroad. While it is important, it is only a *small piece* of your qualifications from your full college academic experience.

Prepare specific examples. Did you:

- Complete a specific project, research, case study related to your career field?
- Learn to work with a more diverse group of people than previously, or work with a specific culture related to a particular company that has connections in that country?
- Learn new activities, languages, hobbies, skills?
- Develop skills through experiences or independent travel?