

# Resumes/ Interviews

Incorporate Your International Experience



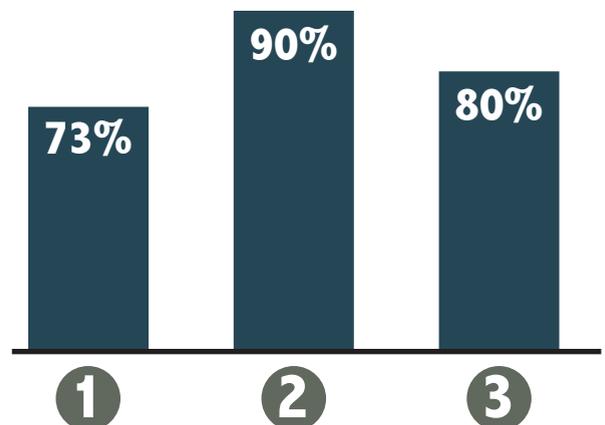
## Understanding Your International Experience

Study abroad and overseas internships are essential to developing a solid International I.Q. This is a package of skills uniquely possessed by people who have spent time abroad, and many of these abilities are sought out by employers and graduate schools. Therefore, it is up to you to effectively communicate the skills and competencies you have gained abroad that will benefit their organization. You must convince them of the value of your experience.

- Open-mindedness • Cross-Cultural Communication • Strategic Thinking • Perseverance
- Understanding of Global Connectivity • Problem Solving • Overcoming Language Barriers
- Crisis Management • Cultural Awareness • Time Management • Flexibility & Adaptability
- Appreciation of Diversity • Patience • Independence • Responsibility • Coping Skills

**S**  
**P**  
**E**  
**ABROAD**

- 1 Employers who cited study abroad as important when evaluating job candidates.
- 2 Employers who believe study abroad students possess highly desirable skills.
- 3 Human resources executives who said study abroad experience influenced job placement for overseas positions.



\* Data is from a 2010 study conducted by the Institute of International Education

# Tips for Including International Competencies on Your Resume

- 1** Focus on your accomplishments and skills. Your resume should focus on the “results” of your overseas experience, not simply where you went or what you did.
- 2** If your overseas experience was heavily academic (large course load, research work, etc.), it may be best to include it under education. However, if you completed a professional internship while abroad, you might choose to include it under work experience. You can also include your overseas experience in a separate category titled International Experience. This option may be the most appropriate if you’ve had multiple experiences abroad. If you developed foreign language skills, be sure to include your level of proficiency.
- 3** Sample Bullet Points:
  - Utilized strategic thinking and non-verbal communication to overcome language barriers
  - Fostered cultural understanding through a one month internship at a local business
  - Adapted to cultural differences and customs through daily interaction with classmates, professors, and community members over a period of 4 months
  - Learned how to adapt to unanticipated situations and improvise new plans due to periodic travel mishaps and unexpected events
  - Developed French language fluency, by taking coursework in French and communicating with my host family on a daily basis

## How to Incorporate Your Experience in a Job Interview

- 1** Consider in advance when and how you will refer to your experience abroad. Have one or two short stories that focus on skills gained.
- 2** Be sure to include how your experience was different from others who have spent time overseas. For example: Did you travel independently? Did you complete a unique research project or internship? Did you have an interesting cultural interaction?
- 3** If your interviewer remarks or asks about your international experience, take it as an opportunity to expand. Don’t let the opportunity pass by with a simple “Yes, it was great!”
- 4** While international experience is important, you should not use it as your only point of reference. Be sure to talk about a variety of experiences during your interview.

## On Campus Resources

### Study Abroad Re-Entry Course (SPEA V100)

Coming Home: Study Abroad and Re-Entry  
This 1-credit, 8-week course asks students to examine their overseas experience and to seek further personal growth.

### SPEA Career Development Office (SPEA 200)

Appointments available for resume help and interview prep

### IU Office of Overseas Study (Returning to IU)

<http://overseas.iu.edu/return/transition.shtml>

## Additional Resources

### Why Study Abroad is Worth the Expense

<http://lifehacker.com/5868371/>

### Including Study Abroad in your Resume

<http://www.gooverseas.com/blog/study-abroad-resume-tips>

### Study Abroad and Career Development

[http://www.aifsabroad.com/advisors/pdf/Tillman\\_AIFS\\_Student\\_Guide\\_Career.pdf](http://www.aifsabroad.com/advisors/pdf/Tillman_AIFS_Student_Guide_Career.pdf)

**SPEA**

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