

There are many positive reasons for undertaking vacation work abroad: to experience a foreign culture; to improve your employability and language skills; to do something worthwhile, to stand out from the crowd and to have fun. The attractions of working abroad during university vacation periods are limitless. You don't have to want to run an American summer camp, be a Ski instructor in Canada or pick fruit in France for the rest of your life to really benefit from the wide variety of working abroad programmes that are on offer. Such opportunities are a great way of expanding your horizons, developing skills and exploring interesting alternatives in an unusual and fun environment.

However, it is important to plan ahead and allow plenty of time to organise your vacation work and consider what you hope to achieve. There are a number of factors you need to consider:

- Language/culture** - do you speak the language? Can you learn enough to get by?
- Climate** - would you be happy in a different climate? Can you deal with extremes in temperature?
- Do you need a Visa for where you want to go?**
- Distance** - how would you deal with life miles from home?

Working in the European Union (EU)

Working within the EU is the most straightforward option for many students wishing to work abroad. With mainland Europe so near travel is relatively cheap. Visas are not required for British citizens and most European countries are used to offering internships and summer work.

If you choose to send a speculative application (CV and covering letter) you should ensure it includes the dates of when you are available and is written in the appropriate language and style for your country of choice as CV styles vary from country to country – see 'Working Abroad' in the 'Jobs and Work experience' section on www.prospects.ac.uk or <https://online.goinglobal.com/>.

The web provides access to many company sites and online applications. International White and Yellow Pages online www.wayp.com are also helpful and can, for example, provide lists of employment agencies in other countries.

Any vacation work overseas we receive is advertised regularly through the 'Vacancies' section of our website - <http://www.stir.ac.uk/careers/>.

Other useful web resources for working in Europe:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/>: the EURES (Employment Service) website aims to make it easier for workers to move freely throughout the EU with information on living and working conditions of individual countries.
- <http://www.graduatejobsineurope.com/> - data about graduate employers across Europe with economic information per country
- https://europa.eu/youth/EU_en - for paid and volunteering work experience in Europe

Working outside the European Union

If you are looking for work outside the EU then you may have more of a challenge as in most countries visas are a necessity. Some Commonwealth countries and the USA issue 'Student Exchange Visas' which allow up to 12-18 months of work and travel. In some cases you can apply direct to the relevant embassy's visa section in London, but for others you will need to travel with a sponsoring organisation. This can add to your costs, but it does make organising your vacation



easier and many such organisations will give advice and perhaps even lists of potential job opportunities.

Useful web resources for working outside the European Union:

- ❑ www.bunac.co.uk/UK/ - BUNAC offers a wide range of overseas work and travel programmes. Look out for information sessions often held on campus during semester.
- ❑ <https://www.campamerica.co.uk/> - a cultural exchange programme that gives you the chance to spend your summer living and working on a summer camp in the USA
- ❑ <http://www.canvasholidays.co.uk/recruitment> and <http://www.eurocamp.co.uk/> - offer a wide range of roles in Europe
- ❑ <http://www.ciee.org/> - the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) offer internship programmes in the USA.
- ❑ <http://culturalvistas.org/> - Cultural Vistas (previously AIPT) provide help to those looking for work experience in the USA.
- ❑ www.saltirefoundation.com - the Saltire Foundation offers international internships
- ❑ www.wildpacks.com - Wildpacks offer summer camps in the USA

Voluntary Work Abroad

Voluntary work can give you the opportunity to gain an insight into a career area that may interest you in order to help you decide if it is definitely for you. It can help you gain specific practical experience that is often required to get into a particular career area, e.g. fieldwork skills for environmental jobs. Volunteering also helps develop transferable skills that may be useful in a wide variety of career areas, e.g. organisational, interpersonal and presentation skills. Do remember that many of the voluntary opportunities can be quite expensive to fund so plan ahead and be prepared to look for funding from charities and trust funds. There are also reference books in Library on volunteering opportunities overseas – search the Careers and Employability Service classmark.

Useful web resources for voluntary work abroad:

- ❑ www.stir.ac.uk/careers - vacancies section for details of volunteering opportunities abroad.
- ❑ www.xchangescotland.org - lower cost option for short or long term projects worldwide.
- ❑ <http://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad> and <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/careers-advice/working-overseas/838/working-as-an-english-teacher-overseas> - teaching English overseas
- ❑ www.ivs.gb.org - International Voluntary Service
- ❑ www.school-house.org - International volunteering opportunities
- ❑ www.projects-abroad.co.uk - teaching projects in a range of countries
- ❑ www.vso.org.uk - wide range of volunteering projects

Other Useful Websites

- ❑ www.fco.gov.uk/travel Part of the Foreign Office website which provides essential information for travellers.
- ❑ www.prospects.ac.uk 'Working Abroad' within the 'Jobs and Work experience' section of the Prospects website contains helpful information on working abroad with country specific information including where to find vacancies, details of work experience schemes and useful links and resources.

» Why Work Abroad?

"Experience new surroundings, meeting international people and make new friends."

"Working abroad is an extra on your CV; Graduate recruiters see this a plus, it shows that you are able to expand boundaries, adjust to different cultures, surroundings and that you're not afraid of challenges."

"Have an exciting adventure!"

For more information contact the Careers and Employability Service:

www.stir.ac.uk/careers

Updated August 16 All URLs are provided in good faith.