

Clarifying Your Goals

If you are considering a job or internship abroad, the most important step is to identify your goals for the experience. Would you like to:

- Improve language skills?
- Gain experience in a particular career field?
- Pursue a “working vacation” where you earn money to support travel to a variety of places?
- Establish a long-term career abroad?
- Learn about different cultures?
- Work abroad briefly and return to the U.S.?
- Develop your intercultural competency?

From these goals, you should identify the top 3-5 keywords to help guide your search; these could include a country name, a language, career area, or even a job title. If you would like assistance with clarifying your goals, make an appointment in 103 Barnes Hall to meet with the international career advisor.

Work Authorization and Safety

You will probably need a visa or work permit to work abroad. Obtaining work authorization can be a lengthy process, so conduct background research at least 3-6 months in advance of your travel date. The following resources can help you identify your work authorization needs:

- **GoinGlobal** gives country-specific work visa/permit information for 40 countries: online.goinglobal.com.
- **Consulate or Embassy** for the country of interest. Visit the website or call for more information about the requirements, fees, and timelines for obtaining work authorization.

Safety and Health Issues

The **U.S. Department of State** issues travel warnings that can help you stay safe while traveling abroad: travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.

Students Abroad provides recommendations and safety information. This website is geared towards American students traveling abroad, but some information is applicable to individuals from any country: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov>.

For health concerns, visit **Cornell Health’s Travel Clinic** for advice, health insurance information, and vaccinations: health.cornell.edu/services/medical-care/travel-clinic.

Identifying Organizations, Programs, and Opportunities

In addition to looking at job postings through **GoinGlobal**, you can browse the “International” section of the CCS Job-Search Resources webpage career.cornell.edu... Students... Finding Jobs... Job-Search Resources. Whether you’re interested in teaching English abroad or volunteering for a non-profit in Africa, this list of over 100 resources will help you identify potential programs, databases, or organizations.

If you would like to conduct your job search by location or organization, the Johnson Management Library has links to a number of career-related databases: johnson.library.cornell.edu. **Uniworld** contains information about U.S. companies that have branches abroad, and **Mergent Intellect** provides information about U.S. based and international employers. Both databases permit searching by industry, keyword, state, and country.

Applying for an Overseas Job

When applying for jobs outside of the U.S., your U.S. resume and cover letter may need significant revision. Job application materials vary widely from country to country. To learn more about the process of applying for a job in a specific country, try to conduct information interviews with Cornell alumni or other individuals you may know who have experience living abroad.

You may also consult the following resources for country-specific advice:

- **GoinGlobal** (mentioned earlier), which also provides details on job application material information for 40 countries: online.goinglobal.com.
- **Books** in the CCS Library, such as **Global Resume and CV Guide** or **Best Resumes and CVs for International Jobs**.
- **Career Services’s Library Catalog**, which provides resources on international application materials: career.cornell.edu... Resources.
- **Cornell Travel Registry**. If you travel abroad for a job or internship while still a student, you should sign up in Cornell’s Travel Registry. This is required if your experience is underwritten by any Cornell funds.