MARKETING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Having a study abroad experience under your belt makes you an appealing candidate to employers and graduate/professional schools, but simply listing it on your résumé only gets your foot in the door. To get the job, you have to be able to clearly articulate ways in which your international experience helped prepare you to succeed in the role they seek to fill. Check out these tips to get started.

WHAT SKILLS DID YOU GAIN ABROAD?

- Patience
- Teamwork
- Self-sufficiency
- Critical thinking
- Open-mindedness
- Time management
- Problem-solving ability
- Flexibility / adaptability
- Foreign language learning
- Intercultural understanding
- Cross-cultural communication
- Global perspective in your field
- Ability to work with people of different backgrounds

RÉSUMÉS, COVER LETTERS, INTERVIEWS

- Review job descriptions or graduate school application instructions to determine which skills to highlight.
- Study abroad entries on résumés are typically placed in the “Education” section but can be placed elsewhere where relevant. Use concise, bullet-pointed action statements that grab attention.
- Cover letters allow you to briefly elaborate on a few well-chosen examples of how your skills match those required by the position.
- To prepare for interviews, research the types of questions you may be asked and use the “STAR” method to practice answers to behavioral questions. Identify a SITUATION, explain the specific TASK, describe the ACTION you took, and end with the RESULTS.

The AU Career Center can help! Visit www.auburn.edu/career.

EPORTFOLIOS

ePortfolios are personal websites that allow you to visually represent your learning in courses, internships, and co-curricular experiences such as study abroad. The following are examples of study abroad “artifacts,” which are documents and media that showcase your skills:

- Photos
- Videos and audio recordings
- Blog or journal excerpts
- Class assignments
- Drawings or paintings
- Presentations
- Flyers
- Scrapbook pages
- Poetry

For more information, check out the ePortfolio Project in the Office of University Writing at www.auburn.edu/eportfolios.