

# Marketing Your International Experience

## Sharing Your International Experience with Confidence

Initially, students often think about how to discuss their international experience when writing their résumé. The listing below, with action verbs is a great place to start brainstorming your content for your résumé.

Additionally, here are a few résumé samples of international experiences. Then, review guidance on how to share the skills, experiences and personal qualities that you may have utilized during your international experience.



### STUDY ABROAD ACTION VERBS

Adapted	Explored	Learned	Recognized
Awarded	Fostered	Lived	Represented
Built	Immersed	Managed	Researched
Collaborated	Implemented	Organized	Shared
Cooperated	Improved	Overcame	Translated
Developed	Interpreted	Practiced	Traveled
Exchanged	Involved	Realized	Visited

### EXAMPLE 1

List your study abroad experience in the *EDUCATION* section of your résumé. You may want to include specific skills that are relevant to your academic experience.

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration**  
 Arcadia University, Glenside, PA (May 20YY)

- Minor: Spanish
- GPA 3.78
- Honors: Dean’s List (Spring 20YY & Fall 20YY)

**Study Abroad, School for International Training, Buenos Aires, Argentina** (Fall 20YY)

- Studied Argentina’s gross domestic production
- Completed coursework in Business and Economics

~ OR ~

**School for International Training, Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
*Study Abroad* (Fall 20YY)

- Immersed in Latin American culture, society and traditions
- Involved in intensive Spanish language skills training
- Traveled independently throughout Argentina including Buenos Aires, Sarandi, and Olivos
- Learned to establish rapport quickly with classmates attending to language and cultural differences

### EXAMPLE 2

You may choose to list your study abroad experience in both, the Education and Experience sections of your résumé. Include a specific aspect of your study abroad experience as part of your experience, including those skills gained through your time abroad. (Sample below)

### Adding International Experience to Your Résumé

#### EXPERIENCE

##### **Spanish Tutor**

*Language Resource Network, Glenside, PA*

(July 20YY – December 20YY)

- Assisted 45 students in building self-confidence in written communication and public speaking
- Clarified grammar points and helped students improve their pronunciation
- Assisted with word choice and organization of ideas for essays and presentations

##### **Study Abroad**

*School for International Training, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

(Fall 20YY and Spring 20XX)

- Independently established contacts with 2 local human rights organizations
- Explored human rights issues and prepared challenging research questions
- Selected and scheduled interviews with the founders of 5 local human rights organizations
- Wrote final report of findings and presented in Spanish

#### EXAMPLE 3

You may also include study and work abroad experiences in a separate, International Experience section on your résumé. This option is appropriate when you've had multiple experiences abroad.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Volunteer**, Community Service Alliance, Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Summer 20YY)

- Worked twice a week for two hours each day at a human rights organization
- Translated legal documents, both English to Spanish and Spanish to English
- Interpreted conversations, during meetings, on behalf of international partner organizations

**Research Intern**, National University of Lanus, Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Spring 20YY)

- Maintained, researched and updated the Human Rights, Children and Migration database
- Translated documents from Spanish to English
- Edited and reviewed local citizens' working papers
- Honed strong writing, editing and proofreading skills

**Study Abroad Participant**, Global Training Society, Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Fall 20YY)

- Directly immersed into Latin American culture, society, and traditions
- Attended intense 6-week Spanish language workshop and gained proficiency in Spanish
- Quickly adapted to the environment and learned how to navigate through the city

**Independent Research Project**, Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Fall 20YY)

- Conducted in-depth study of human rights and immigration policy
- Analyzed emergence of human rights organizations in Argentina
- Studied human rights violations committed against a family under the military dictatorship
- Combined research into a comprehensive report and presented findings at a college symposium

## MARKETING YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advice from Arcadia's College of Global Studies

<http://studyabroad.arcadia.edu/before-after-you-go/welcome-home/skills-learned-abroad/>

## MARKETING YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advice from Arcadia's College of Global Studies

<http://studyabroad.arcadia.edu/before-after-you-go/welcome-home/skills-learned-abroad/>

You've had an amazing experience abroad and now it's time to think about your next step. Whether you decide to start a job search apply to graduate school, or simply take some time off, it will be helpful to be able to articulate the lessons and skills you learned abroad and incorporate these into your résumé/CV and cover letters.

According to a study done by the Career Services and Placement Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University, employers associate resourcefulness and adaptability with having studied or interned abroad. Underscore those and other qualities you developed abroad by incorporating them into your application materials – and eventually into your interview conversations. Here are some tips for refining that story.

- If you completed a Co-Curricular Learning Certificate project, pull it out. Revisiting those reflections on your out-of-class experiences could trigger useful fodder for your anecdotes about what you learned abroad and how those lessons have prepared you for the next step on your career path.
- Work on moving your study abroad storylines from *"I loved it and it was amazing!"* to *"It opened my eyes to..."* and *I am now better prepared to...* and when faced with challenges abroad I... and here are some ways my experiences abroad equipped me to handle a variety of situations... and it gave me a stronger sense of my own potential."

What follows is a list of skills typically acquired through a study abroad experience (you will undoubtedly be able to add more!). Be sure to highlight these and other qualities and skills in your résumé. It may also be helpful to think of a specific instance or situation you were in that demonstrates the particular skill or quality.

### Skills and Abilities Associated with International Experience:

- Embraced cultural differences
- Learned through listening and observation
- Established rapport quickly
- Adapted to changing circumstances
- Managed ambiguity comfortably
- Made smooth transitions
- Took initiative
- Explored the landscape and resources
- Managed time amidst competing demands
- Accepted responsibility
- Offered creative ideas and solutions
- Sought continuous learning opportunities
- Communicated despite barriers
- Learned quickly
- Handled stress and difficult situations
- Organized and prioritize work
- Lead others in formal/informal groups
- Conducted research, despite language and cultural differences
- Coped with rejection
- Took ownership of projects
- Worked independently
- Used an open-minded approach
- Practiced teamwork and facilitation
- Took action with confidence
- Established specific objectives
- Sought achievement
- Embraced hardship and adversity
- Made efficient use of resources
- Established relationships across differences

---

Office of Career Education ☒ Knight Hall Suite 100 ☒ 215-572-2939 ☒ [careerhelp@arcadia.edu](mailto:careerhelp@arcadia.edu)

Arcadia University and Arcadia University's Office of Career Education disclaim any liability for the recruiting, hiring, or employment practices of employers using Handshake or participating in recruiting events. Employer access to Handshake or recruiting events does not constitute an endorsement of that organization. Career Education is not involved in the actual transaction between employers and students/alumni.