

Highlighting Overseas Experience in the Job Search

Think about 3 specific overseas experiences that demonstrate some of the following skills:

- Cultural competencies
- Critical thinking
- Time management
- Interpersonal communication
- Journalism
- Negotiating
- Public speaking
- Language proficiency
- Organization
- Openness
- Creativity
- Self-motivation
- Empathy
- Written communication
- Photography
- Persuasion
- Emotional intelligence
- Leadership
- Conflict resolution
- Ability to work under pressure
- Adaptability
- Video production
- Multitasking
- Translation
- Budgeting
- Logistics
- Collaboration
- Attention to detail
- Delegation
- Social media marketing

Example A:

Situation – Weekend trip to a city in another country in Europe

Anecdote – My friends and I wanted to plan a weekend trip in another country. I **delegated** different roles. I had one friend be in charge transportation, another in charge of lodging, one in charge of food, and had them send me this information so I could create a **budget** and compile all the data to configure the **logistics**. I then **created** a document that had all the information about our trip. From this experience I learned that I have great **planning skills**.

Example B:

Situation – Shopping in the local farmers market

Anecdote – Every Thursday I went to the local farmers market to get my groceries for the upcoming week. I **created** a **budget** and did not overspend. I **negotiated** with each vendor to acquire a fair price for the produce I bought. One individual was particularly stubborn about his prices. I handled this by using **interpersonal communication** skills and **cultural competencies**. I joked with him about how very little money, but if he lowered the price he could rely on me to come by next week and make another purchase. I knew that people of this culture valued commitment and loyalty so I knew that my statement would make a good impact. From this situation I learned that I have the ability to **solve problems** smoothly and quickly.

Be prepared for follow-up questions!!!

Interview Questions not specific to study abroad but could be answered with stories relating to overseas experiences:

- Tell me about a time when you had to adapt to a new or changing situation. How did you respond to it?
- Please provide an example of a time when you used critical thinking skills to find a solution to a problem.
- What is cultural competency to you? Give an example of how you have demonstrated cultural competency.
- Communication is an important skill in the workplace. Please provide an example of your ability to communicate effectively with others.
- What kinds of experiences have you had in relating with people whose backgrounds are different from your own?
- What three skills or assets do you bring to most situations?
- Tell me about yourself.
- Why should we hire you?
- What was the last project you led and what was its outcome?
- What three character traits would your friends use to describe you?
- What's the most important thing you learned in school?
- What is your personal mission statement?
- What are you most proud of?
- What do you look for in terms of company culture?

Resume Model A:

Education

Indiana University Bloomington

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre and Drama

Relevant Coursework: Script Analysis, Dramatic Literature, Theatre History

Honors: Dean's List for five consecutive semesters

Bloomington, IN

Expected May 2020

Queen Mary, University of London/IES Abroad

Theatre Studies

Relevant Coursework: Shakespeare the Dramatist, Playwriting Workshop, Theatre in London: An Introduction

London, United Kingdom

Jan – May 2018

Resume Model B:

Work Experience

Telecom Argentina

Marketing & Design Intern

- Copyedited design documents before final review on a biweekly basis
- Created ~40 flyers using Adobe Creative Cloud software
- Presented to Board of Directors on 'How Emotional Intelligence Affects Media' at the end of the internship

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jan – May 2017

Resume Model C:

Volunteer Experience

Teach For All

Music Teacher

- Lead 20+ primary school students in instrumental activities
- Taught sight reading on a weekly basis
- Graded student assessments on a monthly basis

Johannesburg, South Africa

Jan – May 2016

Resume Model D:

International Experience

Engaged in coursework at the Council on International Educational Exchange locations:

London, England

- Gender and Sexuality
- Music, Media, and Public Spheres

Apr 2018 - May 2018

Cape Town, South Africa

- Introduction to South African Literature and Film
- Transnationalism and Forced Migration in a Global World

Feb 2018 - Mar 2018

Paris, France

- Global Cinema
- Intercultural Communication and Leadership

Jan 2018 - Feb 2018

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- History of Race in the Americas: Exploring Racial Identity and Representation in Brazil

May 2017

Sample LinkedIn Profile:



CIEE Council on International Educational Exchange

Study Abroad, Open Campus Program: Paris, Cape Town, London
2018 – 2018