



Opportunities for Short Term Work Abroad



Many students dream of working abroad. It sounds exciting and is a great way to prepare for further international work. But is it right for you? Evaluate your personal goals, resources and skills in light of these realities:

- It will take time and effort to identify the right opportunity for you
- To legally work abroad you will need a special visa. Visas are obtained from the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination.
- Don't expect to make a lot of money. Often you will pay fees to participate in international programs. When paid, salaries may not be as high as in the U.S. You gain experience rather than money!

Still interested? There are numerous international opportunities that fall into four general categories – *Internships, Short-term Paid Work, Volunteer Positions, and Teaching Abroad.*

International Internships

Internships are generally directly related to an international career goal but are often unpaid.

Study abroad internships offered through the Study Abroad Office at the University of Illinois (www.studyabroad.uiuc.edu) generally include academic coursework, offer college credit and charge tuition.

AIESEC (www.aiesecus.org), a student run international internship exchange program arranges service learning programs and professional internships abroad in 126 countries. **AIESEC Illinois**, the local chapter at UIUC (www.facebook.com/aiesecillinois) offers leadership experiences, international opportunities and a global learning environment.

AIPT (www.aipt.org) and **IAESTE** (www.iaeste.org) coordinate international exchange experiences. **IAESTE, Illinois**

(<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/InternationalAssociationfortheExchangeofStudentsforTechnicalExperience/>) arranges internships overseas for technical students at the U of I.

International Cooperative Education (www.icemenlo.com/faq.shtml) arranges summer and semester

Short-Term Paid Work Abroad

Typically these jobs include restaurant work, child care or farm work that last a few months to one year.

BUNAC (www.bunac.org) is a popular work exchange organization that arranges work permits and offers job search assistance. Available to current students and recent grads, BUNAC offers work in Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and volunteer experiences in South Africa and Peru.

Volunteering Abroad

Volunteer programs strive to meet unmet needs within a country. There is a huge range of opportunities in a wide variety of countries for as short as a few weeks or as long as two years. Often volunteers work alongside local citizens.

Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov), is a two-year experience with stipend. Contact the local campus Peace Corp representative (www.careercenter.illinois.edu/library/peacecorps.asp) for more information.

Idealist.org's International Volunteerism Resource Center (www.idealism.org/en/ivrc/index.html) provides resources to help make informed decisions about volunteering in another country.





Teaching English Abroad

Teaching English as an international language can be an accessible avenue for working overseas. Often a bachelor's degree and being a native English speaker is all that is required. Formal ESL credentials may not be required for all opportunities; but often open doors to positions in tighter markets. Opportunities generally require a one year commitment, although there are some shorter programs.

JET (www.jetprogramme.org/index.html) is a well-established one-year program that recruits assistant language teachers to provide English instruction in elementary, junior and senior high schools in Japan.

World Teach (www.worldteach.org) provides opportunities to serve as volunteer teachers in developing countries.

Dave's ESL Café (www.eslcafe.com) "The internet's meeting place for ESL & EFL teachers & students..."

Fulbright Program for U.S. Students http://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_teaching.html

English Teaching Assistantships are offered in many countries worldwide.

Choosing the Best Opportunity for You

Most students and recent graduates participate in programs that help to arrange their international experiences. These programs offer assistance in obtaining placements, visas and providing orientation and support. If you choose not to use a program, you will be responsible to arrange all these details on your own. Generally to be successful, you need contacts at the location to which you want to go. To choose a program that suits you, you will need to answer questions such as:

- Do I desire/need academic credit?
- How long do I want to be overseas?
- Where do I want to go?
- What do I want to do or focus on while I'm there?
- What are the requirements to participate in this program?
- What are the costs? And can I afford them?

Before you commit to a particular program, you will want to check it out thoroughly. Talking with former participants, reading participant reports on **Transitions Abroad** (www.transitionsabroad.com), doing a Google search, and asking very specific questions can help you get the information you need to evaluate a program. **How to Research and Select an Overseas Program** (www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/study/articles/how-to-choose-an-overseas-program.shtml#) provides more details on how to evaluate a program.

Plan ahead! Start early! There are many details to care for in selecting a program and preparing to go overseas.

Online Resources —Good places to start

International Center: The University of Michigan

Information about options for studying, working, or traveling abroad to students.

www.internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt

Transitions Abroad

Portal for Work and Study Abroad, Cultural Travel, and International Living.

www.transitionsabroad.com/index.shtml

GoAbroad.com

Comprehensive resource for international education and experiential travel. www.goabroad.com

StudyAbroad.com

On-line directories of international study abroad, internships, service learning and volunteer programs

