



Showcasing Study Abroad on Your Resume

Study abroad is a unique experience that can set you apart from other internship, job or graduate school applicants. It is also a sign of intercultural competence that is appealing in our increasingly interdependent society. However, many students forget to list this valuable experience on their resumes. Don't make this mistake – international experience is an excellent way to entice potential employers and graduate schools, and it can help your resume stand out in a crowd!

1. Skills and qualities gained

When you made the decision to study abroad, it's likely that your top motive for doing so wasn't to gain experience or hone skills that would impress a future employer. However, you'll be pleased to learn that many of the skills students gain through studying abroad match the skills recruiters look for in job candidates. For example, some part of your experience probably illustrates that you are adaptable and flexible in new situations; that you possess strong listening and communication skills; that you are comfortable working with people from different cultures – all things that employers value in the workplace. Other possible outcomes of an international experience may include the following:

Skills

Establish rapport quickly
Function with a high level of ambiguity
Achieve goals despite obstacles
Take initiative and take risks
Time management skills
Communicate despite barriers
Learn quickly
Handle difficult situations
Handle stress
Adapt to new environments
Learn through listening and observing
Money management in varying currencies
Language skills/fluency
Networking skills
Problem-solving skills
Decision-making skills
Job-related skills (such as writing, interviewing, research or photography)

Qualities

Self-reliance
High energy level/enthusiasm
Appreciation of diversity
Perseverance
Flexibility
Assertiveness
Inquisitiveness
Self-confidence
Self-knowledge
Independence
Responsible
Global awareness
Comfortable working with those from different cultures
Tolerance/open mindedness

2. Where on my resume, and what type of information?

When including your study abroad experience on your resume, think about the skills you gained and what you learned while abroad (see above section for help). Did you become proficient in a language? Did you improve your communication and organization skills while navigating through new places? Did you gain

research or professional experience through conducting an independent study project or completing an internship? Have you become well-versed in some aspect of your host country's culture? Remember that you must make the connection to the actual skills you gained through the experiences you had.

- You can include your study abroad experience as part of your Education section, possibly including those specific skills relevant to your academic experience.

Education

Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas – May 2017

- Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, minor in Sociology
- Overall GPA: 3.5 / Major GPA: 3.9
- Thesis: "Socioeconomic Status and Food Accessibility in Venezuela" – presented at the Southwest Social Science Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana (March 2017) and at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in La Crosse, Wisconsin (April 2017)

Study Abroad, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Summer 2016

- Completed coursework in Latin American culture and society.
- Demonstrated willingness to take risks through enrollment in Spanish-speaking curriculum.
- Gained fluency in Spanish.
- Examined the effect of birth control on population growth in Argentina as an independent research project.

- You may also include a specific aspect of your study abroad experience as part of your Professional Experience or Related Experience section, including those skills gained through your time abroad.

Related Experience

English Tutor, Ida Burns Elementary School, Conway, Arkansas – Fall 2016 to Spring 2017

- Developed and implemented lesson plans for afterschool tutoring program for ESL students.
- Managed 15 students, ages 7 to 10, from diverse backgrounds up to 10 hours a week.

Independent Research, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Summer 2016

- Learned to establish rapport quickly with individuals in an unfamiliar environment.
- Developed culturally appropriate questionnaire.
- Interviewed 25 rural Argentinean women, overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers.
- Analyzed data using Argentinean software and wrote final report in Spanish.

- You may also decide to list study abroad twice, under both Education and Experience.

3. Visit the Hendrix College Office of Career Services for help incorporating your study abroad experience into your resume, or for reviewing a first draft. Schedule an appointment by calling 501-450-1440, stopping by the Student Services information desk on the 2nd floor of the SLTC, or emailing careerservices@hendrix.edu.