



**Guide to...**

**Seeking**

**opportunities**

**abroad**



# INTRODUCTION

This guide is for students and recent graduates who want to seek work-based opportunities abroad. If you are interested in study abroad, go to: [Prospects Study Abroad](#), or as a current student, contact the university's [Go Global Team](#).



# WHY SEEK OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD?

There are numerous potential benefits of seeking opportunities abroad:

- Experience different cultures and immerse yourself in a local community
- Enhance your employability through development of transferable skills
- Develop new language skills
- Develop personal attributes important to employers
- Gain relevant experience of benefit to your future career aims
- Enable you to stand out to future employers

# PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

## VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visa requirements vary between countries, so check before you start applying for opportunities. For information on country immigration websites see the [Direct Gov Foreign Travel Advice](#) pages. UK citizens need a work permit to work in most EU Countries, see [Direct Gov Work in an EU Country](#). Many countries also require your passport to be valid for a minimum period of time, with UK Citizens able to check requirements on [Direct Gov Foreign Travel Advice](#).

## VACCINATIONS

You may need vaccinations for some countries, either obtained free from your GP or from a private travel clinic for a fee. Go to [NHS Travel Vaccinations](#) and check individual country requirements on [Fit for Travel NHS](#).

## ACCOMMODATION AND LIVING COSTS

Typical living costs include: accommodation, bills, food, travel and spending money, as well as flights to your destination. Compare UK living costs with the country you intend to work in at [Numbeo Living Database](#). Some countries also provide general living costs on their government websites. The [Bath Spa University International Travel Fund](#) supports students international placements and study trips. Open to any current BSU student.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- Why do you want to work abroad?
- What do you want to do?
- Where do you want to go?
- When do you want to go abroad?
- How long do you want to spend abroad?
- Do you want to have a single experience (working for one organisation in one country) or multiple experiences (such as working as you travel)?
- How much time can you allocate to researching and applying for opportunities?
- How might you prepare for potential language and cultural differences?
- What support might you want from an opportunity abroad? (For example, do you want pre-departure training, an arrival orientation induction, help with settling-in, access to support if you encounter difficulties?).

## HEALTH CARE AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel and health insurance is essential, but must be adequate for the country you are visiting and the type of work you are involved in. If an employer is sponsoring your work visa, check to see if the job offer covers healthcare. UK citizens can apply for a UK GHIC for some free healthcare abroad, go to: [Direct Gov GHIC](#).

## FINANCIAL

If you typically pay tax or National Insurance contributions in the UK and are earning money while overseas check with HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) to understand tax or National Insurance implications. Also check any requirements to pay tax in the country you will be working in and if you are entitled to any rebate at the end of your paid work period.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

The [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) give travel and safety advice.

# TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES

## CASUAL WORK

The most common types of casual work are in the hospitality and tourism sectors. It is common for those who undertake casual work to do so as a way to gain some extra income to supplement their travels.

- [Au Pair USA](#)
- [AnyWork AnyWhere](#)
- [Jobaroo \(Australia\)](#)
- [BUNAC \(Worldwide\)](#)
- [WOOFING Volunteer Exchange \(Worldwide\)](#)

## SEASONAL WORK

Seasonal work is casual work for a particular seasonal activity, for example, working a ski season.

- [Season Workers](#)
- [AnyWork AnyWhere](#)
- [WorkaSeason \(Winter Resorts in Europe\)](#)
- [PGL \(Ski Resorts Worldwide\)](#)

## SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps provide summer recreational activities for children. They may be run by government departments, private organisations, charitable bodies or religious groups. Some summer camps have a specific activities focus, for example, sports camps, performing arts camps or English language camps.

- [Camp America](#)
- [Camp Canada](#)
- [CCUSA \(North America, Russia and Croatia\)](#)
- [PGL Summer Camps \(Europe\)](#)

## VOLUNTEERING

Overseas volunteer projects are typically based in developing countries and tackle issues around health, social care, education and conservation. For further information and advice on choosing a volunteer project, please refer to the '[Bath Spa Guide to Volunteering](#)'.

## INTERNSHIPS, PLACEMENTS AND GRADUATE ROLES

Other than using contacts and networks to find roles, there are two main ways to secure opportunities. Firstly, some companies advertise opportunities directly, with candidates applying direct to the company. Secondly, there is a growing industry in third-party organisations who negotiate internships or graduate placements with different companies on behalf of candidates, who typically pay a fee for such a service.

It's important to do your research on third-party organisations and ask questions, for example;

- How long have they been established?
- Are they partnered with any Government schemes or university institutions?
- Have they achieved any industry recognition awards?
- What links do they have with companies in the sector that interest you? Can they give you examples of internships they have secured for previous candidates?
- What fee applies and what is covered by the fee? What other costs might you incur?
- What support do they offer, including pre-departure and in-country support?
- Can they put you in touch with other students/ graduates they have placed in internships?

## GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE

For British graduates there may be opportunities to work for government and public service that involve significant periods of time living and working abroad.

- [Civil Service Fast Stream: Diplomatic Service](#) – placement in London followed by postings abroad.
- [British Council](#) – entry level positions may be advertised at British Council offices worldwide.

## TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

TESOL is a popular way to obtain work overseas. Opportunities exist in a range of settings including commercial language schools, state schools, and large companies. As a TESOL teacher you could teach children, adults or business employees the English language. Qualification requirements vary. See the '[Bath Spa Careers Guide to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages \(TESOL\)](#)'.

There are hundreds of websites advertising opportunities abroad. Here are some examples, but do take time to do your own research;

### AMERICAS

- [Mountbatten Institute](#)
- [GradLink Canada](#)
- [CIEE](#)

### ASIA

- [CRCCAsia](#)
- [Pagoda Projects](#)
- [British Council Internships China](#)
- [GradLink India](#)
- [GradLink China](#)
- [GradLink ASEAN](#)
- [Daiwa Scholarship Japan](#)

### EUROPE

- [European Commission Jobs Board](#)
- [Erasmus Intern](#)
- [RateMyPlacement](#)
- [GradLink Europe](#)

### AUSTRALASIA

- [Grad Australia](#)
- [Seek Australia](#)
- [New Zealand Internships](#)

### AFRICA

- [GradLink Africa](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)

### MIDDLE EAST

- [GradLink Gulf countries](#)

### WORLDWIDE

- [Prospects](#) – search worldwide graduate jobs and internship
- [Prospects Work Abroad](#) – read country guides regarding job websites
- [Projects Abroad](#)
- [GoingGlobal](#)
- [UN Careers](#)

# TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR RESEARCHING EMPLOYERS

The resources in this guide are a starting point only and if you want to gain experience abroad you will need to spend considerable time doing your research.

- Get networking! Use LinkedIn to connect with students and recent graduates working abroad.
- Use social media to follow country-specific professional associations and job boards.
- Use [Prospects Work Abroad](#) to read country specific information and explore job boards.
- Many UK employers have overseas offices. Explore employer websites for overseas roles or consider approaching them for speculative opportunities.

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Bath Spa Careers and Employability is here to help you get a great start to your career. We are open year round, so to find out more about how we can support you go to: [www.bathspa.ac.uk/careers](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/careers)

As a student or recent graduate, *MyCareer* is your online portal for booking events, accessing appointments, submitting queries, and searching for jobs and placements.

You can also follow @bathspacareers on social media:  
**Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | LinkedIn | Instagram**

Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this resource guide is accurate but we recommend that you check all details carefully.

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