

Market Your Study Abroad Experience: Put Your Global Education to Work



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Why are you here?

Michigan State University Study

The impression recruiters often gain from hearing students describe their study abroad experience can best be summed up as ‘academic tourism’... Employers often take away from the interview the impression that study abroad was a lot of fun, but contained little (work-related) substance (Gardner, P., Steglitz, I., & Gross, L., 2009)

Overall Research

Studying abroad has been proven over and over by research:

- To develop or refine skills such as: flexibility, adaption, independence, confidence, communication, and problem solving
- To develop cross-cultural understanding, cultural knowledge, and language skills
- To influence career-direction

Activity

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- Check off all that apply to your study abroad experience.
- Pick one statement & think of a story from your study abroad which connects with that statement.
- Write that story down.

What have you gained from your experience?

Directions: Listed below are statements describing many of the changes that have been felt by study abroad returnees in the past. Some of these may be changes that you, too, have felt. If you haven't thought very carefully about how you have changed, this list may be especially helpful in making you more fully aware of what has happened to you. Read the list below and place a check by each change that you believe has occurred to you. *Source: AFS-USA*

- 1. I have improved my ability to speak a foreign language.
- 2. I am more knowledgeable about another culture and lifestyle.
- 3. I have a greater ability to empathize with others, that is, to put myself in their place when making judgments.
- 4. I can accept failures and shortcomings in myself more easily.
- 5. I understand more fully my own strengths and weaknesses.
- 6. I am more confident and positive when meeting new people.
- 7. I am more confident and assertive when facing new situations.
- 8. I have a greater capacity to accept differences in others.
- 9. I am more able to share my thoughts and feelings with others, and to be open when others wish to share theirs with me.
- 10. I have more curiosity about and respect for new ideas.
- 11. I have a clearer notion of what I will do with my life.
- 12. I am more flexible and able to adjust to changes in others.
- 13. I am more tolerant of ambiguous situations, that is, of situations that are confusing and open to differing interpretations.
- 14. I have more ability to see myself objectively, that is, to see my own day-to-day problems in a broader, more realistic context.
- 15. I am more deeply committed to an idea, cause, or goal.
- 16. I have increased my perseverance and self-discipline.
- 17. I am more willing to strive and sacrifice in order to do well in my studies at school or in independent learning projects.
- 18. I have a greater sense of responsibility for other people.
- 19. I am more able to express deep emotions freely.
- 20. I am more able to ask for and receive help from others.
- 21. I have greater willingness to take on roles and task to which I am unaccustomed.
- 22. I have increased my capacity to experiment and take risks.
- 23. I am more able to accept as valid other values and lifestyles.
- 24. I have a deeper understanding of (if not necessarily commitment to) the values and lifestyle of my native community.

Skills & Competencies

What employers seek... and what you have developed

What Employers Seek:

- **Communication**
- **Adaptability**
- **Flexibility**
- **Cultural Awareness**
- **Integrity**
- **Self-Management**
- **Analytical**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Teamwork**

Developed through Study Abroad:

- **Communication**
- **Adaptability**
- **Flexibility**
- **Cultural Awareness**
- **Integrity**
- **Self-Management**
- **Analytical**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Teamwork**

BEHAVIORAL BASED INTERVIEWING



- Give an example of an occasion when you used logic to solve a problem.
- Give an example of how you set goals and achieve them.
- Tell me about how you worked effectively under pressure.
- Have you ever made a mistake? How did you handle it?

"STAR" - Technique to Answering Behavioural Interview Questions

S

Situation

T

Task

A

Action

R

Results

S

Situation

I spent a semester studying in London, where the structure of the educational system is different from what I am accustomed to here in the United States. I took a British history class where my final grade was determined based solely on two tests and one research paper.

T

Task

My goal was to maintain my grade point average and status on the dean's list, so I reached out to a group of students in my class and asked them to form a study group with me.

A

Action

As a group, we reviewed the syllabus and organized weekly study sessions that worked with all our schedules. I created a group email chain to ensure that any changes to the schedule were communicated to all group members. I also devised a system for sharing notes with study group members to ensure that we covered the content from several angles.

R

Results

As a result, I earned an A- in the course and maintained my position on the dean's list. I was also able to network with my peers and gain a greater understanding of British life and culture. I feel that this experience will serve me well in this position because it requires strong organizational skills and the ability to work both independently and in a team setting.

Skills highlighted: communication, ability to work in a team, initiative, organizational ability, strategic planning skills

Build Your “STAR”

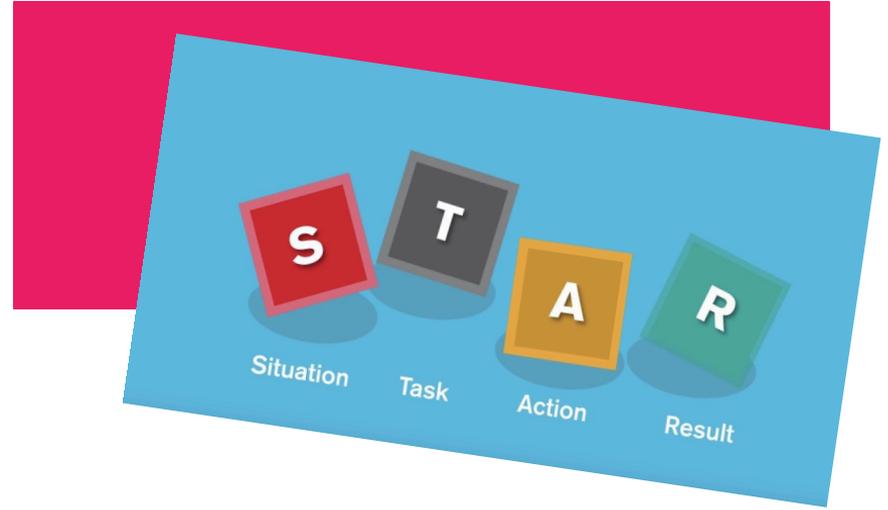
- Using the skills you identified from the study abroad stories you shared earlier, create your own STAR responses.

S	T	A	R
Situation	Task	Action	Results
Set the Scene - Provide content and background Where? When?	Describe - A challenge and expectations What needed to be done? Why?	Explain - Elaborate on your specific action What did you do? How?	Detail the result - The impact of your actions Recognition, Accomplishments, Benefits
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Skills highlighted: _____

Advice

- MOST REQUESTED SKILLS
- FIND DIRECT AND INDIRECT WAYS
- CRAFT AND PRACTICE
- MAKE THE MOST IMPACT AND SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION



Listing Study Abroad on Your Resume

EDUCATION

New City College

Bachelor of Science, Political Science

Relevant Coursework: International Relations, Comparative Urbanism

Honors: Dean's List for five consecutive semesters

New City, IN

Expected Jun 2019

Universidad Complutense de Madrid/IES Abroad

Concentration in History

Relevant Coursework: Sociology, Spanish History

Honors: Study Abroad Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Madrid, Spain

Jan – May 2018

Education section

Include the name of the school/study center you attended abroad, along with the city, country and dates attended

Listing Study Abroad on Your Resume

WORK EXPERIENCE

Madrid Marketers

Madrid, Spain

Marketing & Design Intern

Feb – Apr 2018

- Copyedited design documents before final review on a biweekly basis
- Created ~40 flyers using Adobe Creative Cloud software
- Presented to entire company on 'Marketing to Millennials and Gen Z' at end of internship

Cityscape Reading Room

New City, IN

Communications Assistant & Clerk

Jun 2017 – Present

- Performed all communications tasks for the bookshop; managing social media, events, and promos
- Assisted customers with finding, discovering new, and buying books
- Prepared, received, and stocked product for and from shipments

Experience section

Best for internships abroad

Listing Skills on a Resume

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Computer: PC and Mac Operating Systems, Adobe Creative Cloud, WordPress, Social Media platforms, Hootsuite, MailChimp, GoToMeeting, Searchlight SEO software

Language: Advanced German (studied for 5 years), Novice in Spanish (one semester in Spain)

Other: Project management, event planning, copyediting

Interests: International travel, Star Wars trivia, Sudoku, outdoor yoga

Hard skills are the technical knowledge you gain through life experience, career or education.

Soft skills are the personal habits and traits that shape how you work on your own and with others.

Highlighting Study Abroad in Cover Letter

“My experience studying abroad in Puntarenas, Costa Rica allowed me to gain solid proficiency in Spanish as well as a strong knowledge of Hispanic culture and life. I know my Spanish language skills and understanding of Latino culture will be useful in expanding your Latino client base.”

“While studying abroad in Osaka, Japan I had to quickly learn to navigate the city’s large metro system. This was not an easy task—I could only speak and read very basic Japanese. However, I learned the system very quickly because I relied on the metro to get me to school as well as my internship each day.”

Questions?

Reach out to your career development office for more resume and cover letter support!

Feel free to follow-up with us with any questions!

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