

MARKETING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE TO EMPLOYERS

Spending time in a foreign country is a great way to experience other cultures while developing your own sense of independence. But, it is important that you are able to communicate the value of your experience to employers. Connecting the significance of your study abroad to the context of the company or position will help the employer understand that value.

You can include your study abroad experience on your resume as part of the Education section, or as a separate heading. Include the dates you studied, applicable classes/research, and name/location of the institution. During the interview, you can draw upon your study abroad experience to demonstrate the skills you developed and challenges you overcame.

SKILLS/TRAITS THAT EMPLOYERS SEEK THAT YOU MAY HAVE USED WHILE STUDYING ABROAD

Communication skills
Interpersonal skills
Self-motivation
Cultural sensitivity
Maturity

Problem solving skills
Responsibility
Organizational skills
Perseverance
Adaptability

QUESTIONS THAT MAY DRAW UPON STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

- How have you changed as a result of your Study Abroad experience?
 - What was the biggest challenge you faced while travelling?
 - How has your world view been affected from travelling?
 - Why did you choose to study in _____?
 - Tell me about a recent mistake you made and what you learned from it.
 - Tell me about a time you were able to achieve more than you expected.
 - Tell me about your greatest achievement in college.
 - Sometimes to succeed in a particular situation, we have to adjust our behavior, attitude, methods, etc. Describe a situation in which you needed to change in order to succeed.
 - Tell me about a time you had to adapt quickly to a situation.
 - Tell me about a special goal that you set and how you went about accomplishing it.
 - Tell me about a situation when you had to persuade someone/others to take action on an idea you had.
 - Tell me about a difficult situation you have faced and how you went about solving it.
 - Recall a time that your education and experience did not prepare you for a task.
 - Tell me about a time you made it a point of concern to follow through on commitments you made to do things in spite of difficulties.
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HOW TO PREPARE

1. Think of 3-4 experiences from your study abroad experience (specific stories)
 2. Practice using the B-A-R or S-T-A-R method of answering your question (see interview handout)
 3. Be engaging and enthusiastic, but succinct.
 4. Connect the story to the skills or traits sought by the employer.
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