

International experience? Employers highly value the skills and abilities you develop living and working out of your comfort zone.

What key elements of a study abroad experience should I highlight?

- Highlight your experience working in an international environment (meaning collaborating with people from the country you're studying in), learning another culture and language, and solving problems both while traveling and during the academic portions of the trip. With increased globalization, employers want employees who have a global perspective since they are always looking to expand their frontiers, often to other countries. When interacting with employers or while in an interview put quality over quantity and describe relevant experiences.

How much study abroad experience is enough to include on a resume?

- Quality over quantity – Having study abroad experience, even if only for a week, can not only help with job applications, but also applications to graduate school, scholarship programs, and fellowship programs. It could also lead to the discovery of new career fields. Just make sure you make the most out of the trip, no matter the duration. Get out of your comfort zone and get experience interacting with people from another culture.

Where should I place my study abroad experience on my resume?

- Either the Education, Experience, or Activities sections. Exchange programs are best listed under Education. Summer and weeklong programs, depending on the individual program, can go in either Education or Activities. A work-related program should be included in the Experience section.

Do employers want to see my study abroad experience?

- Yes – Even if the employer does not explicitly ask about your experience, you can bring it up in your answer to a question or your elevator pitch. Make sure the information you discuss is relevant to the employer to provide a better sense of your skills and abilities. Also, do not make your study abroad experiences sound the same on every resume. Tailor the description to the specific posting.

How can I highlight my experience in an interview?

- The best time to highlight experiences abroad in an interview is when you are asked behavioral questions or questions about the challenges you have faced. Use your experience to make the interview interesting. Again, put quality over quantity and keep your descriptions relevant to the question at hand; do not go off on a tangent and forget to wrap it back around to the original prompt. Even better, if the interviewer asks you about your experience directly, take it as a chance to tell the interviewer a story that describes how your trip has helped equip you for the position. If you need guidance, think about how your experience helped you mature in the fields of teamwork, patience, adaptation, and handling transitions.

How about beyond my resume? Where else can I make my study abroad experience shine?

- Study abroad experiences do not have to be restricted to a resume. You could also describe your experiences in cover letters and application essays. In a cover letter, highlight the skills you have gained in-depth and elaborate further on how your study abroad program has better equipped you for the position. An essay gives you more freedom to highlight your travels. Emphasize personal gains and the significance of your trip(s) while keeping your essay within the prompt.