



HOW TO DESCRIBE STUDY ABROAD ON A RESUME

We hope you had a wonderful experience studying and living in another country. How does it feel to be back? You still may be trying to figure out how you can incorporate everything you've learned abroad into your life here. Make time after the study abroad experience to take an inventory of the transferable skills you now possess. **How were your existing strengths enhanced by your time overseas, and what new additions might you have made to your skill set?**

After spending time overseas where you learned about a different culture, you will also need to reflect on your experience and be ready to speak intelligently about it to potential employers. The fact that you spent time overseas is not the key point for employers. **You must be able to articulate how your study abroad experience relates to and benefits them.** Through written materials or in conversations, employers need you to clearly and thoughtfully convey how your study abroad experience has prepared you to be a strong candidate for their organization.

POSSIBLE SKILLS GAINED WHILE STUDYING ABROAD

During your time abroad, you most likely developed or honed a variety of skills and competencies that might be cross-cultural, industry-specific, or transferable. The list below includes qualities and abilities which students studying abroad frequently develop. In preparation for a job interview, you may want to **think of concrete examples from your experience abroad that demonstrate your development of some of these characteristics.**

Ability to establish rapport quickly	Foreign language proficiency
Achieving goals despite obstacles	Independence
Adaptability	Inquisitiveness
Applying information to new contexts	Open-mindedness
Assertiveness	Patience
Awareness of global economic and political issues	Perseverance
Cross-cultural communication	Problem solving
Conveying ideas verbally	Self-confidence
Critical thinking skills	Self-reliance
Enhanced cultural awareness and sensitivity	Taking initiative
Flexibility	Time management

Reflect upon your experience and the specific career-related strengths you gained. For example, did you:

- Work on group projects with students from different cultures?
- Initiate meetings with professionals at local organizations to gain insights into corporate and industry culture?
- Actively participate in a student organization?

Through experiences within and outside of the classroom, studying abroad may have improved your abilities to:

- Creatively solve problems by applying familiar concepts to unfamiliar situations.
- Look at a project or situation from different perspectives.
- Maintain self-confidence while listening to and learning from people whose value systems may be different.
- Be flexible and adaptable to rapidly-changing situations and new environments.
- Imagine, forecast, analyze or address business situations from a different cultural frame of reference.
- Develop an understanding of global issues in your industry of interest.

PUTTING IT ON YOUR RESUME

You can incorporate your study abroad experience into your resume in a variety of ways:

- List the name of the program/institution in the “Education” section of your resume, just as you list Lewis & Clark College.
- Consider listing any coursework or projects related to your internship/job search.
- You can describe work, internship, or volunteer experience you had during your time abroad.
- Depending on the level of detail you want to include on coursework and projects, you can list these study abroad-related experiences in the “Education” section, the “Related Experience” section, or perhaps in an “International Experience” section, if you plan on conducting a search with an international focus.
- You can also describe any language skills you developed in the “Skills” section, describing the proficiency as basic, conversational, proficient, fluent, or native.

If you are unsure about where to best highlight your program and additional international experiences, bring a copy of your resume to drop-in hours to schedule an appointment with the Career Center.

