

# Working Abroad

The decision to expand your horizons abroad can be realized through a variety of opportunities. The search for the right opportunity for you requires time and effort. Things to consider:

- Why do I want to work, volunteer, study or travel abroad – what are my expectations?
- What skills do I have and what skills will I gain through an experience abroad?
- Do I have the financial means to go overseas?
- What work/study visa or citizenship requirements and health insurance coverage are required?

**Note:** *The International Student Centre (ISC)* is a great resource for any student who is interested in going abroad. Visit the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) *International Student Centre* (Room SL-151), their website <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/isc>, or call 416-287-7518.

Every January the Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) in collaboration with the ISC sponsors an *International Opportunities Fair*. You will be able to speak directly to representatives from a variety of organizations with interests around the world including internships, exchange programs, short term study and travel.

## Work Abroad

There are a number of options you can consider if you wish to work abroad. You can work for a multi-national organization or government agency and be transferred to another country. You can be hired directly by a foreign owned organization. Another short-term option is a student exchange program.

## Student Exchanges

**Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP).** This year-round program allows you to go abroad and work in short term positions, such as office administration, retail, hospitality and other service industries. There is an application fee (varies with country and is refundable if you are not accepted) that pays for your visa and two days accommodation and orientation when you arrive. You are responsible for finding your own job in the host country. Note that wages are minimal and most jobs are not career related. For more information about deadlines and application forms, contact Travel Cuts near the St. George campus at: 187 College Street, 416-979-2406 or [www.travelcuts.com](http://www.travelcuts.com).

**Association Internationale des Etudiants en Science Economique et Commerciale (AIESEC).** This international trainee exchange program is specifically set up for business students. It will place you with a company and help orient you to the country when you arrive. You must pay for your own room, board and travel expenses as well as an administration fee (most of which is refunded if you are not placed in a company). You must arrange for your own visa. Most positions are in multinational corporations and wages are sufficient to cover these expenses. Although placement is year round, if you are interested in going abroad next summer, apply in October. For more information, visit AIESEC's website at: [www.aiesec.ca/toronto](http://www.aiesec.ca/toronto) or contact them at 416-978-5433.

**The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE).** Very similar to the AIESEC exchange, this program caters to engineering students as well as some students in the technical science areas. Most positions are 8 – 12 weeks long during the summer. Wages are sufficient to cover expenses while in the host country but not air fare. There is an application fee which is partially refundable. For more information visit IAESTE's website at [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org) or contact them at 613-533-2030.

## Government

**Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT),** [www.international.gc.ca/education](http://www.international.gc.ca/education). DFAIT manages a number of programs: some provide Canadians with opportunities to develop their knowledge of the world; others provide foreigners with opportunities to learn more about Canada.

**Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA),** [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iyip](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/iyip). Provides information on the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) which is available for Canadian graduates (ages 19 to 30 inclusive), part of the Career Focus stream of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES).

**Public Service Commission (PSC)**, <http://jobs.gc.ca>. Provides direct links to the human resources departments of more than 20 international agencies that Canada belongs to, including the United Nations and the World Bank. Many of these links also include information regarding student internships and voluntary opportunities.

If you wish to work in a Canadian Embassy or consulate, you must go through the Foreign Service Program. Normally a recruitment campaign is launched every fall through the PSC website. Note the process is very lengthy and may take anywhere from six to eighteen months. It is also very competitive so do your research and be prepared!

### Non-Governmental Organizations

There are many not for profit organizations that assist in the developing world. Projects are in a wide variety of areas including education, health, housing, economic stimulus, environment, emergency relief and human rights. The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) provides information about many of these organizations on their website [www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca). The AA&CC has a copy of their print directory *Who's Who in International Development*.

### Foreign Owned Organizations

You may work for a foreign owned company but this option often requires additional paperwork (visa requirements, immigration documentation, etc.). For a listing of large multinational organizations, look for *Who Owns Whom* in the library. If you have a bachelor's degree and/or license in a particular field that is listed as one of the 63 professions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), you can apply for a new TN Professional temporary employment authorization to work in the United States. A list of these occupations is available on the website [www.uslawyer.com/tn1.html](http://www.uslawyer.com/tn1.html).

### Academic Advising & Career Centre

Going Global is a subscription service which is accessible through your Career Centre (CC) Online account. It provides an internship database, country guides and employer directories. Your CC Online account has "Weblinks" that connect you to numerous websites on career and employment issues. For the *Work Search Abroad* section, go to *Finding Jobs and Employment*. In addition, the AA&CC Resource Centre Library has a number of useful publications including *The Canadian Guide to Working and Living Overseas*, *The Global Resume and CV Guide* and *Work Your Way Around the World*.

### Travel Abroad

Travel Cuts, the Canadian University Travel Agency, has student fares and discount package holidays. Visit their website at [www.travelcuts.com](http://www.travelcuts.com) for travel tips and insurance information. The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) gives you access to a world-wide network of student travel discounts, including accommodation, sightseeing and transportation. Visit the UTSC Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) office (Room SL-108) to get your free ISIC card.

Having an international focus is attractive to future employers. International travel is a great way to expose yourself to other cultures. Plan your adventure carefully and travel safe! The ISC offers programs on travel safety.

In the same way that you may need help when you plan to go abroad, you may also need some assistance upon your return. Depending on the length of your stay and the amount of lifestyle adaptation that was required, you may experience *culture shock*. Personal Counsellors at *Health and Wellness* (Room SL-270) can assist you with this transition. Contact the office at 416-287-7065 if you would like to make an appointment.

### Online Resources

**Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs.** [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

**Canadian International Development Agency.** [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca)

**Centre for International Experience.** <http://cie.utoronto.ca>

**Hoovers.** [www.hoovers.com](http://www.hoovers.com)

**Idealist.** [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)

**International Youth Program.** [www.international.gc.ca/iyp-pij](http://www.international.gc.ca/iyp-pij)

**Jobs Abroad.** <http://jobs.goabroad.com>

**SWAP.** [www.swap.ca](http://www.swap.ca)

**Teach Abroad.** [www.teachabroad.com](http://www.teachabroad.com)

**Transitions Aboard.** [www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

**University of Toronto Safety Abroad.**

[www.utoronto.ca/safety.abroad/index.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/safety.abroad/index.html)

**Youth.gc.ca.** [www.youth.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml](http://www.youth.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml)