

Guide to...

Job Hunting Abroad as a UK Graduate

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Introduction

Many UK graduates choose to seek graduate opportunities abroad. Whether you are considering going abroad for a short-term opportunity or a long-term opportunity there is a need for careful consideration and research. Not only do you need to consider your reasons for going abroad and decide on where to go and what to do, but there will also be additional practical issues to research and prepare for.

This guide is specifically for UK graduates seeking graduate job opportunities abroad on both a short and long-term basis. You may also find the '**Bath Spa Guide to Seeking Opportunities Abroad**' useful. If you are an EU student, you will need to research opportunities based on your nationality and eligibility to work in the country that interests you.

Why gain graduate employment abroad?

There are a number of reasons why UK graduates choose to seek work-based opportunities abroad and it is important to be clear what your personal reasons are as you are likely to be expected to articulate them within a recruitment process. Reasons could include:

- To experience working and living in a different culture
- Opportunity to develop language skills
- To develop personal attributes important to employers (e.g. independence, motivation, adaptability)
- To access a growth area in a particular work sector and increase access to job opportunities overseas
- To gain relevant experience which, in some cases, may be best achieved by seeking opportunities abroad, for example, international development work or conservation work
- Family or personal reasons e.g. relocation for family purposes
- Better living conditions or higher pay compared to the UK

Decision making

In making a decision, you may want to ask yourself the following questions:

Why do you want to work abroad?

Think about what you want to achieve from the experience and what benefits you think it will give you, including how it could benefit your career goals through the skills you might develop.

What do you want to do?

Perhaps your focus will be on working abroad to gain experience in a specific sector that has relevance to your career goals or perhaps you want the life experience of working in another country. Either way, it is important to consider whether you have a particular type of role or sector in mind, or whether you have a range of interests that open up various possibilities.

Where do you want to go?

You may not have a specific country in mind, but perhaps you have an idea about *where* in the world you want to work. Think carefully about what type of experience you want to have, whether you want to experience a completely new and different culture or work in a country that shares your first language, for example.

When do you want to go?

So you may have decided you want to seek a graduate opportunity abroad, but do you want to go as soon as you graduate or gain a period of UK based work experience first while you consider your options? Whilst it may be very tempting to hop on a plane the day after your graduation ceremony, bear in mind that depending on the country you want to work in and the type of opportunity you want to secure, you may find more opportunities open to you if you already have some work experience relevant to the area of work you are interested in. You may find it easier to secure UK based experience than compete with other international graduates for opportunities open in other countries. Overall, carefully consider the pros and cons of when to go.

How long do you want to spend abroad?

Consider if your move abroad will be a short or long-term move. If you are planning a permanent move for example, there will be additional practical considerations you will need to take into account and research. Whilst deciding how long you want to work abroad can be helpful in terms of choosing an appropriate work visa and searching for opportunities, many graduates may have short-term initial plans that un-expectantly turn into longer-term plans as they find that they begin to build a new life in another country. Always be open-minded when planning how long you want to spend abroad and be prepared to re-evaluate your plans!

How much time do you have available to seek opportunities abroad?

Not only will you need to allocate time to research opportunities, submit applications and be available for possible telephone/skype interviews, you will also need to spend time researching countries of interest and planning for the practicalities of spending time abroad. Some opportunities, particularly structured schemes, may only be open for applications for short periods of time and may require applications a number of months in advance of a departure date.

What impact could language and cultural issues have on your experience?

If you are working in a country that doesn't share your first language you will need to consider if this is a barrier and, if so, how you might overcome it. In some cases the language spoken by the organisation you will be working with may not be a barrier, but day-to-day living might mean that having basic language skills will help you with settling in. This could mean taking a short language course in advance.

If the culture of the country you are working in is very different to your own, then expect that you may experience an element of 'culture shock' while you settle in. Think about ways in which you could prepare for this by researching cultural norms of the country in advance or speaking to others who have visited that country.

Practical Considerations

Visa

As a UK graduate, visa requirements will vary depending on the country you intend to work in. It is advisable to look into visa requirements and be clear that you meet eligibility requirements *before* you start applying for any opportunities. If you do require a visa, give yourself adequate time for it to be processed.

Europe

As a UK citizen you currently have the right to work in any country in the European Economic Area (EEA) (http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm) without a work visa, however, following the results of the EU Referendum, there may be future changes to work eligibility for UK citizens wishing to work in an EU country. Keep up-to-date by checking the Direct Gov website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for->

[british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe](#). In terms of working conditions, pay and benefits you will have the same rights as nationals of the country you're working in.

Outside Europe

For countries outside the EEA, you are likely to require a work visa. In some countries you may need a job offer prior to obtaining a work visa and, in some cases, your prospective employer may apply for your visa on your behalf. Always check visa requirements for the country you intend to visit and spend time reading through visa information carefully to ensure you are clear about the eligibility requirements of the visa that would best suit your circumstances. Go to: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> for country information and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-embassies-in-the-uk> for a list of foreign embassies in the UK for more specific information.

Passport

Many countries will require your passport to be valid for a minimum period of time after the date you enter the country. Check individual country 'entry requirements' - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

Vaccinations

You may need vaccinations for some countries. Some vaccinations may be free and obtained from visiting your GP whereas others may require payment (payment can vary depending between private clinics). You also need to be aware of how soon before you travel you may need to be vaccinated, as this will vary depending on the type of vaccination.

The NHS website provides an introduction to travel vaccinations: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Travel-immunisation/Pages/Introduction.aspx> and recommends checking vaccination requirements for individual countries on the following website: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx>.

Accommodation and living costs

You will also need to consider your day-to-day living costs (accommodation, bills, food, travel and spending money). Your living costs may differ depending on your circumstances for securing work abroad. For example, if you are applying for overseas graduate internships, some opportunities may cover some of your living costs for the time you are working abroad. Alternatively, if you happen to work for a UK-based employer with overseas offices and secure an opportunity through them, they may assist with a relocation package. However, if you need to secure your own accommodation make sure you view accommodation with someone who speaks the local language and, if necessary, ask for tenancy contracts to be translated.

If you are planning on a longer-term move or to relocate permanently, you may want to know how your living costs compare with living costs in the UK. The Numbeo website allows you to compare living costs between two countries (http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/compare_countries.jsp). Some countries also provide general living costs on their government websites.

Flights and transfers

Don't forget that you are likely to need to factor the costs of flights and transfers to get to your destination. Some formal graduate internships and schemes abroad may cover these costs for you. Similarly, if you have secured long-term employment with a large organisation they may cover the cost of flights or offer a relocation package if you are making a permanent move.

Health care and travel insurance

If you are a UK citizen working in other European countries you may be entitled to free or reduced cost medical treatment through the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx>. However, entitlement

may change depending on what happens with the UK leaving the European Union. Outside the European Union, you will usually have to pay for medical treatment. If you are working in a country where your employer has sponsored your work visa, it may be the case that the employer's job offer covers some medical treatment, but it is important to check this. However, you are encouraged to ensure that regardless of your destination you have adequate cover for medical *and* travel emergencies and it would be advisable that you take out medical and travel insurance.

Financial

If you are earning money while you are overseas it is advisable that you inform HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) and find out if there are any tax or National Insurance implications. You will also need to advise HMRC if you are making a permanent move overseas. You should also check the requirements to pay tax in the country you will be working in and if you are entitled to any rebate at the end of your work period should you return to the UK.

Personal safety

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) give travel and safety advice for every country:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

Searching for graduate opportunities abroad

The resources within this section have been split into three parts: short-term graduate opportunities; long-term graduate opportunities; and additional graduate opportunities. For the purpose of this guide 'opportunities' are defined as those which are specific graduate internships or schemes abroad or placement opportunities abroad. 'Short-term' is defined as those internships or schemes of less than 12 months and 'long-term' defined as those 12 months. Please be aware that some international graduate internships and schemes may not be paid and you may have to cover all your travel and living costs.

The 'additional graduate opportunities' section details national and international websites on which you can search for a range of graduate opportunities abroad (some of which may be defined as internships, whereas others will be graduate jobs open to all graduates).

Make sure you spend dedicated time thoroughly researching any opportunity before committing to it.

Short-Term Graduate Opportunities

- <https://www.aiesec.co.uk/students/> - Global Talent - an opportunity to spend 3 to 18 months abroad. A wide variety of internships are on offer and AIESEC work to secure graduates a professional paid internship.
- <http://www.ciee.org/intern/> - CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) (Internship USA)
- <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/ihe/what-we-do/international-mobility/generation-uk-china> - British Council internships in China for British students enrolled at UK universities.
- <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=IP> – United Nation internships for those seeking a career in public policy. Opportunities available worldwide including the USA, Africa, Asia, and South America.
- <https://www.crccasia.com/> - CRCC Asia (internships for current undergraduates and recent graduates across a range of sectors)
- <https://internchina.com/> - Intern China (across a range of sectors)

Long-Term Graduate Opportunities

- <https://www.aiesec.co.uk/students/> - AIESEC Global Talent.
- <http://www.ciee.org/intern/> - CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) (Professional Career Training USA)
- <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/diplomatic-service/> - Civil Service Fast Stream (Diplomatic Service) – involves two years working in London before taking up a posting abroad.
- <http://www.mountbatten.org/nyc-a-year-in-new-york> - Mountbatten Institute - 12 month opportunities in New York working in Finance, Law, IT, Event Management, HR, Marketing and Communications. Applicants also study for professional post-graduate level qualifications in business alongside their placement.
- <http://dajf-org-uk.stackstaging.com/scholarships/daiwa-scholarship> - Daiwa Scholarship Japan (graduate opportunity to for a unique 19-month programme of language study, work placement and homestay in Japan)

Additional Graduate Opportunities

Please note that whilst all these websites can be useful for searching for opportunities abroad, they are not all specifically targeted for graduates, so you will need to carefully review job advertisements to see if you are suitable for opportunities that interest you.

Worldwide

- http://www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate_job_search.htm - Prospects (Graduate Careers website with searchable job opportunities worldwide)
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/> - TARGETJobs (Graduate Careers website with searchable job opportunities worldwide)
- <http://www.ihipo.com/> - iHipo (new graduate careers website for international internships and jobs)
- <http://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/graduate/> - Guardian (graduate jobs pages with searchable job opportunities abroad)
- <https://www.monster.co.uk/geo/siteselection/> - Monster (country search)
- <http://www.anyworkanywhere.com/index.html> - Anywork Anywhere (useful country information, plus a job search facility)
- <https://www.iagora.com/> - Global jobs board

Europe

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/homepage> - European Job Portal (job opportunities across 30 European countries)
- <https://graduateland.com/jobs> - Graduateland
- <http://www.enternships.com/opportunities> - Graduate Jobs and Internships across Europe
- <http://graduatejobsineurope.com/> - Graduate Jobs in Europe (includes graduate employment prospects by European country and economic outlook)
- <https://www.eurojobs.com/> - Euro Jobs

Asia

- <http://worksingapore.com/> - a job and internship portal for graduates wanting to work in Singapore
- <http://www.grad-asia.com/> - Grad-Asia (recruitment agency specialising in placing UK graduates into the financial sector in Asia)
- <http://jobs.asiaxpat.com/> - Asia Xpat (opportunities across Asia)
- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/india.php> - India Opportunities
- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/china.php> - China Opportunities

- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/asean.php> - Asean countries (Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore)
- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/bangladesh.php> - Bangladesh

Middle East

- <http://www.gulftalent.com/> - Gulf Talent
- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/gulf.php> - Gulf countries

Australasia

- <https://au.gradconnection.com/> - Australia GradConnection
- <http://jobsearch.gov.au/> - Australian Government job website
- <http://nz.gradconnection.com/> - New Zealand GradConnection
- <https://www.seek.com.au/> - Seek Australia (advertises some graduate roles)

The Americas

- <https://graduateland.com/jobs> - Graduate Land (including opportunities in Canada and America)
- <http://www.gradlinkuk.com/canada.php> - Canada
- <http://usa.jobs/> - USA jobs
- <https://talentegg.ca/> - Talent Egg (Canada's graduate and new talent job website)

Tips and strategies for researching employers

The resources provided in this guide are by no means exhaustive and if you want to gain experience abroad you will need to spend considerable time doing plenty of research. Here is a list of additional tips:

- Perhaps the most important tip: Get networking! Making use of LinkedIn and other professional networks can help you to identify people and make connections that could generate opportunities abroad. Search for previous Bath Spa alumni on the Bath Spa University LinkedIn page. You may find previous students who have either had experience abroad or are currently working abroad. Your academic tutor may also know of previous students who have gained experience abroad that you could be put in touch with.
- Use social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. Follow employers, professional bodies/associations/jobs boards and other networks related to the area of work you are interested in and/or the country you want to work in on social media.
- If you have a specific country in mind that you want to work in, research international job websites that advertise vacancies in that country. Opportunities may also be advertised via business directories, newspapers or professional bodies/associations of that country.
- If you are interested in a specific sector, speak to UK professional bodies to enquire if they have links with international professional bodies representing the sector in another country.
- Many UK employers will have overseas offices. Explore employer websites for overseas roles or consider approaching them for speculative opportunities. If you already have experience of working with a UK employer who has overseas offices, this can be used to your advantage as you already have the experience and knowledge of the organisation.
- Use business directories such as Europages (<http://www.europages.co.uk/>) to find organisations across Europe, by sector.

Further reading about opportunities abroad

- http://www.prospects.ac.uk/working_abroad.htm - Prospects Working Abroad (country profiles)
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad> - TARGETJobs Working Abroad (including country profile guides)
- http://www.prospects.ac.uk/gap_year.htm - Prospects Gap Year advice
- <http://myworldabroad.com/> - My World Abroad (including overview and links to types of opportunities)
- <http://www.goinglobal.com/> - Going Global – country specific information, visa information and advice on securing opportunities abroad

Further Support from Bath Spa Careers

If you would like further support from Bath Spa Careers & Employability go to **bathspa.ac.uk/careers** to see the ways in which you can access our service, including workshops and events, appointments and to access our extensive range of resources.

You can also contact Careers Reception on 01225 875525 or at careers@bathspa.ac.uk.

Please note that Bath Spa Careers does not endorse particular organisations.

(This guide was last updated in Summer 2019).

GET A HEAD START

We're here to help you get a great start to your career. We're open all year round, so come and visit us in the Careers Space, book an appointment, or get in touch.

Careers Space, SL.G04
Steward's Lodge

careers@bathspa.ac.uk
01225 875525

www.bathspa.ac.uk/careers

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