

Study abroad: the career benefits

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The boost to your employability that studying abroad offers is not something to be sniffed at, but think it through before putting it on your C.V, says James Connington

If you are currently studying abroad, you will probably, at some point, have referred to how the experience will look “great on your CV”.

You might have cited the employability aspect of spending time abroad to justify it to yourself or your parents. You may even have fooled yourself into thinking that you’re only going abroad because of how many opportunities it will open up for you, or how it will make you stand out from the crowd.

For the vast majority it is unlikely that these were the main reasons behind deciding to leave the UK, myself included. Of course there’s absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to travel, experience a new culture and be a part of study abroad social life. But ultimately that will all come to an end and you’ll be left wondering how to sell those last few months (or year) to a potential employer.

Luckily for you, most of what you said was in fact correct. You might have been using the employment angle as a means to justify an end, but the truth is that studying abroad can genuinely help you get a job.

There are skills to be gained from moving country and adjusting to a new teaching system. It’s also far easier to identify the skills you are lacking when you step outside your comfort zone – and going abroad to study is a fairly serious step.

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