Working outside the UK

Whatever your reason for wanting to work outside the UK, this information sheet will help you to start to address some of the key issues you need to consider and point you to some websites and further information to help your job search. Use the links provided here as well as the International Work pages on our website for many more links to jobs sites and resources – www.york.ac.uk/careers/work

York students have access to GoinGlobal – a comprehensive online resource providing country specific career and employment information, including worldwide internship and job listings; visa and work permit information, company profiles, advice on CV preparation for different countries and much more

International Students: If you are an international student returning to your home country or looking for work elsewhere outside the UK, many of the resources on this information sheet may be relevant to you – but please also see specific information on returning home on the international student pages of our website www.york.ac.uk/careers/international

Planning

- Be clear about where you want to work, what you want to do and why? Is it to earn money, experience a new culture or start developing an international career? Is it to put off getting a graduate job? Do you want to be based permanently outside the UK or just spend some time working in other countries, as some graduate schemes offer placements outside the UK?
- How much do you actually know about job opportunities in the country you want to work in – are your plans realistic?
- Will you need any additional experience or qualifications?
- Do you have adequate language skills? If not, could you take a course before you leave the UK?
- Can you demonstrate the ability to adapt to a new cultural environment?
- If you are looking for a graduate position, are there really opportunities for UK graduates in the country of your choice or will home graduates be given first consideration?
- Will your qualifications be recognised for the kind of work you want to do?
- Do you understand the recruitment/application process and how it may differ from that in the UK?
- Will you need immigration permission? How much will a visa cost (if required) and how long will your application take? Are there restrictions on the type of work you can take?
- Think about the practicalities: finding somewhere to live, paying rent up front, setting up a bank account, tax/NI issues/health and travel insurance, money for emergencies etc.

Use the following sites to research different countries

- Going Global: www.york.ac.uk/careers/work click the ‘International Work’ link for access
- www.prospects.ac.uk/working_abroad.htm
- http://theundercoverrecruiter.com/international-job-search-finding-work-abroad/
- Newspapers and journals can be a useful sources of information and vacancies: www.onlinenewspapers.com
- www.internations.org global expat network offering advice, country and city guides
- Use the British Chamber of Commerce for a particular country to find links to businesses based there.
- NASES country guides: Whether you are a graduate returning to your own country, a placement student, or simply want to work in another country these guides are full of useful advice - which
sectors are growing, where to look for vacancies, how to apply for jobs (including example CVs) and interview tips: [http://tinyurl.com/mwwt8uh](http://tinyurl.com/mwwt8uh)

- [http://ec.europa.eu/eures/](http://ec.europa.eu/eures/) European job search site with country profiles – see Living and Working section
- [www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk](http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk) - country profiles

**Finding vacancies**

Start your search with the vacancies advertised through Careers Gateway ([www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway)) and use our World Links: [www.york.ac.uk/careers/worldlinks](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/worldlinks)

Many of the general vacancy sites on our *Finding Graduate Vacancies* information sheet (under the Job Hunting tab) will list overseas opportunities: [www.york.ac.uk/careersinfosheets](http://www.york.ac.uk/careersinfosheets)

**Casual work**

Casual work is popular with many students and graduates as a way of combining travelling and earning some money. Jobs are often unskilled and can be seasonal. Opportunities exist in the hospitality sector, retail, bars, catering, ski resorts, summer/sports camps and many more. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) is another popular choice for many – further information on this sheet. See the *Considering TEFL* information [www.york.ac.uk/careersinfosheets](http://www.york.ac.uk/careersinfosheets) - Considering tab.

**Vacancy sites for casual work include:**
- [www.studentjobs4u.co.uk/](http://www.studentjobs4u.co.uk/)  
- [www.e4s.co.uk](http://www.e4s.co.uk)  
- [www.summerjobs.co.uk](http://www.summerjobs.co.uk)  
- [www.holidaybreakjobs.com/](http://www.holidaybreakjobs.com/)
- [www.seasonworkers.com/](http://www.seasonworkers.com/)  
- [www.pgl.co.uk](http://www.pgl.co.uk)  
- [www.anyworkanywhere.com](http://www.anyworkanywhere.com)  
- [www.summerjobs.com](http://www.summerjobs.com)  
- [www.seasonworkers.com/](http://www.seasonworkers.com/)
- [www.easyaupair.com](http://www.easyaupair.com)

**Internships/work experience**

You can get more formal work experience as part of a placement year on your course or you could work abroad for the summer on an international internship. Graduate internships are also becoming popular. They can be related to your course or the job sector you want to go into. Internships and work experience can be paid or unpaid, and some companies organise work experience opportunities where you pay for their services in arranging the placement/accommodation/visas, etc. See the notes below about how to check out these opportunities before committing yourself to paying anything. You should think about what you want to achieve during your internship and discuss this in detail with your employer. Take as many opportunities to learn about the organisation, make contacts and learn new skills as you can. Think about how the experience and skills you gain can be marketed to future employers.

**Sources of internships/work experience include:**
- [www.iaeste.org.uk/](http://www.iaeste.org.uk/) through the British Council - arranges internship exchanges for undergrad (2nd year or above) students of science, engineering, technology, IT and Applied Arts.
- [www.entrypark.com/](http://www.entrypark.com/) internships with multinational companies
- [www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants](http://www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants)
- [www.aiesec.co.uk/students](http://www.aiesec.co.uk/students) offers placements and internships, including management, technical, education and development
- [www.thirdyearabroad.com](http://www.thirdyearabroad.com) advice and information on working and studying overseas
- [http://eurobrussels.com/jobs/internship](http://eurobrussels.com/jobs/internship) internships in EU affairs
- [www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/71157.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/71157.htm) NATO internship programme
- [www.unicef.org/about/employ/index_internship.html](http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index_internship.html) UNICEF Internships
- [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Graduate work
Understanding the graduate job market in the country you want to work in is vital. It may be you are more likely to find work overseas once you have some relevant experience of the sector and of the country (through vacation work/volunteering, etc.) which will make you attractive to overseas employers. You must check out immigration requirements.

Multinational companies or British based businesses with overseas offices may have opportunities for new graduates although this may be more likely after a period of time working for them in the UK. It is worth contacting the companies you are interested in to see how they recruit to overseas positions or checking their websites.

There are also opportunities with Government departments such as the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Department for International Development. Overseas development organisations and NGOs could be another option - check out the websites of the organisations you are interested in for further details.

Sources of graduate vacancies outside the UK include:

**Europe**
- [http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp](http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp) network linking public employment services across Europe to provide international job centre services. Includes sections on job seeking, living and working, and learning
- [www.eurograduate.com/](http://www.eurograduate.com/) jobs listings and country specific information
- [http://europa.eu/](http://europa.eu/) the official web site of the European Union and provides access to information published by all EU institutions, agencies and bodies
- [http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp](http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp) network linking public employment services across Europe to provide international job centre services. Includes sections on job seeking, living and working, and learning
- [www.eurograduate.com/](http://www.eurograduate.com/) jobs listings and country specific information

**Worldwide:**
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm) International job search
- [www.iagora.com/iwork/jobs/listing/](http://www.iagora.com/iwork/jobs/listing/) vacancy listings & internships
- [www.careerjet.com](http://www.careerjet.com) employment search engine giving immediate access to over 70,000 jobs websites worldwide
- [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) employment search engine
- [www.4icj.com/](http://www.4icj.com/) job search by country
- [http://jobs.goabroad.com/](http://jobs.goabroad.com/)
- [www.helpgoabroad.com](http://www.helpgoabroad.com)
- [www.globalcareercompany.com/](http://www.globalcareercompany.com/)
Volunteering

There are thousands of opportunities available – it is important to find one that matches your values, skills and career aspirations. Again in some cases, for organised volunteering projects it may be that you need to pay for your experience abroad – and whatever you do it’s likely that you will have to cover the costs of your flights/accommodation/food/living costs, etc. while you are overseas. You should take all this into account in your planning to see if it is a realistic option for you. Talking to people who have undertaken similar opportunities in the past is a great way to see beyond the sales talk and understand the reality of the experience. Check out current volunteering positions in Careers Gateway (www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway) Attend our events to talk to opportunity providers in this sector www.york.ac.uk/careers/events

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.britishcouncil.org/youth-in-action voluntary opportunities in Europe
- www.cev.be/ European Volunteer Centre
- www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/volunteer/volunteerprogramseurope.shtml
- www.internationalservice.org.uk York-based organisation offering funded overseas placements
- www.vso.org.uk Voluntary Service Overseas
- www.wwv.org.uk Step Together Vounteering with one of the largest volunteering databases in the world
- www.projects-abroad.co.uk/ Global organiser of overseas volunteer work placements
- www.originalvolunteers.co.uk/ independent volunteering specialists
- www.volunteerhq.org volunteer abroad programmes in 28 different countries

Teaching – many organisations offer teaching posts abroad, including:

- www.projects-abroad.co.uk - teaching and journalism opportunities
- www.jet-uk.org - Japan exchange and teaching programme (JET)
- www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants - work in schools overseas
- www.onlinetefl.com - teaching and other opportunities
- www.ciee.org/ - Teach China programme
- www.chatteris.org.hk/ - opportunities to work in schools throughout Hong Kong helping pupils improve their English skills
- www.chinaesl.com.cn/index2.html - paid work teaching English in Chinese schools

Checking out “paid for” opportunities

Although you should never be charged by an agency to find you a normal job, if you are applying for an organised/structured scheme (volunteering/gap year opportunity/work experience/internship) through a specialist company that organises elements of the experience on your behalf, there may be costs involved. It is important that you do careful research before signing up:
Be clear about all fees and charges and what you get for your money – do they organise visas, transport, insurance, accommodation? How will they support you during your time overseas?

Equally, be clear about what is not included in the fee you pay

What happens if things go wrong? What support will you have locally?

Check any agreements carefully – and read the small print to check for exclusions

Think about any other costs you may need to cover – for example travelling/holiday at the end of your organised opportunity

Budget carefully and realistically – there are online tools to help you do this

Be clear about what you will be doing/what your role is/what your responsibilities will be

Do you have the opportunity to speak to previous participants in the scheme – or can you research this on online forums/message boards or via Facebook/Twitter, etc?

Does the organisation have a good reputation? Search online to see what information is available online.

You can find lots more useful information at www.yearoutgroup.org - in the Planning a Gap Year section and visit www.abroadreviews.com/ and www.gooverseas.com for reviews of various overseas opportunities.

Finding funding

You may need to raise money to fund your trip if there is a cost associated with it. See the funding information on the How to get work experience and internships information sheet for ideas (www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets - Work Experience tab). Some major companies may have funds available if you are doing unpaid charity work overseas. Some professional bodies also provide funding for overseas internships/projects so check out any related to your area of work: www.totalprofessions.com/profession-finder

Other sites you might find helpful

- www.travelhealth.co.uk
- www.travelinsuranceguide.org.uk/ independent, comprehensive insurance comparison site
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Aware
- www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/ travel advice from the FCO broken down by country
- Caroline’s Rainbow Foundation www.carolinesrainbowfoundation.org/ travel safety information for young people
- Safer Jobs www.safer-jobs.com/advice.cfm advice to help protect jobseekers, employers and service providers from crime during the recruitment process
- www.transitionsabroad.com/ expert advice, first-hand experiences, and practical resources for employment and voluntary work overseas

Careers resources

Please also see the following Careers information sheets (www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets) for additional information and links:

- Work Experience….. series
- Considering…. Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Taking time out after your degree

We have the following books available for reference in Careers:

- Live and work in …. series of books:
  America/Australia/Brussels /Canada/France/Italy/Japan/New Zealand/Portugal/Spain
- Getting Into International Development
- Work and Study in Developing Countries
- Jobs and Careers Abroad
- Working Abroad
- International voluntary work
- Volunteer for development
- Short term service directory
• Summer jobs worldwide
• Work your way around the world
• Working on cruise ships
• Working in ski resorts
• Your gap year

You can also pick up free copies of Grad Malaysia/Grad Singapore and Eurograduate magazines and the Entrypark International Career Book (for Business or Engineering and Science), from Careers.

We have profiles of many graduates working overseas in our York profiles and mentors database. These graduates may be able to share their experiences with you, and help you with information or advice on working overseas. You can search all our profiles here www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles and make contact with the graduates who could help your career.

This information sheet gives just a flavour of the opportunities that are available to you – there are many more!

Please note:
• The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list.
• Careers cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.
• Note: some international internships may be unpaid. Before starting an internship you should be clear about the length of the internship, pay and conditions, what you will be expected to do, and what you will gain from the experience.