

## OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

# JOB SEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### Challenges

A job search for an international student is especially challenging because employers are often reluctant to hire them for the following reasons:

- Hesitant to hire and train just for OPT or to take the time or expense of sponsoring for an H1 visa.
- Concern that a student's language skills may be lacking.
- Concern that a student is not familiar with US work customs.

In addition, cultural messages which have taught you to be modest and rely on others may work against you in the US where a job hunter is expected to be proactive and self-promoting.

How can you alleviate an employer's concerns?

- Be familiar with your visa status so you can explain it accurately to an employer.
- Become as fluent in English as possible.
- Demonstrate familiarity with US customs through successful internships.
- Emphasize your adaptability to and knowledge of other cultures and languages.

### Preparing Your Resume

- Keep your resume short and concise.
- Don't include personal information such as date of birth or marital status on your resume.
- Make sure it does not contain any errors or misspellings.
- Include any volunteer or other experience you've had in the United States.
- Be aware of the resume guidelines for your sector, available through OCS.
- Do not include your international student status on your resume.

### Cover Letters

- Write a concise letter highlighting the skills relevant to the job.
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the organization and your motivation for applying.
- Emphasize language and cultural knowledge if it is relevant to the position.

### Networking

This is very important since you need to develop relationships with professionals who will act as your advocates. You need to know people who will help to see that your resume gets careful consideration because otherwise it may be overlooked by a recruiter. Through networking, you may also be able to find out which employers have been open to hiring international students in the past. Meet professionals through professors, professional organizations, clubs, and alumni.

**Post-Graduation**

If you still aren't employed at graduation time, consider taking a consulting, intern or volunteer position to gain more experience in the US and make more contacts. Continue to be persistent and patient in order to reach your goal.

**Helpful Publications and Resources**

Morrison, Terri and Conaway, Wayne: "Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands: The Bestselling Guide to Doing Business in More than 60 Countries", 2nd edition, Adams Media 2006.

**Going Global** - Resources include business and networking groups, job search resources, cost of living data and more. H-1B employer listings are included in each City Guide, as well as a state-by-state roster. See OCS Databases and Subscriptions for login credentials.