

## **10 Tips on Networking and Job Search in the U.S. from BU International Alumni**

1. Plan ahead and start applying early!
2. Get involved in campus activities as a way to stand out.
  - a. On-campus jobs can help build your resume.
  - b. Leadership roles in clubs can help you acquire important skills.
3. Discover what you are passionate about and be genuinely interested in the fields you may be entering.
4. Volunteering or unpaid internships are a good way to gain experience in the field that you are interested in.
5. Start building relationships with your BU professors, classmates, and alumni.
6. Spend a lot of time preparing for your job search.
  - a. Attend Center for Career Development (CCD) workshops on resume building, networking, and interviewing in the U.S.
  - b. Work with a CCD career advisor to practice interview questions.
  - c. Develop a portfolio of your work (in addition to your resume and cover letter).
  - d. LinkedIn is a great tool to build your network and research and follow the companies you are interested in. Angellist is a good platform for students interested in working for startup companies.
  - e. Reflect on your international identity (bi-cultural background, language skills) and formulate a perspective of what you bring to a company or a position.
7. Be proactive in your job search. Identify the companies you want to work for.
  - a. Once you understand their needs, update your skills accordingly.
  - b. Follow their hiring cycles and apply strategically.
  - c. Try to find a connection, or reach out directly, but do a lot of research beforehand.
8. Be as informed as possible about how work authorization works, take ownership of the process, and advocate for yourself.
9. There are a lot of benefits to networking, including knowledge exchange and self-discovery!
10. Don't get discouraged and don't give up! Don't get caught up thinking about the competition or that you are falling behind. You will eventually find the right position for you.