

Tips on Networking and Job Search outside the U.S. from BU International Alumni

1. Explore different opportunities before making a decision about where to live and work.
 - a. Internships and study abroad opportunities can help you understand different cultures and working lifestyles and what fits your personality best. Understanding what it's like on the ground is important- it can be quite different to what you imagined or what you read about.
2. Your first job after graduation may not be the perfect one and that is okay. Focus on building the skills that you can apply to future opportunities. Whatever you do right out of college does not dictate the rest of your career!
3. It's okay to change direction after your first job. All of your experiences are part of your journey, and you will eventually find the right position.
4. Networking can be uncomfortable to some cultures, but it is important!
 - a. Networking is never a wasted experience, even if you end up not working in the country you networked. You are building on your skill sets, and you are also finding out about yourself.
 - b. Networking is not just meeting senior industry leaders. It's important to network and maintain connections with your peers. You will learn about networking strategies they are utilizing as well.
 - c. Always be prepared before meeting someone. Research their academic and professional background and have specific questions. The more personalized your conversation, the more meaningful your relationship will be, and the more you will learn from them.
5. Reflect on your experience in the U.S., the skill sets you have learned, and how those can benefit a company or a position.
6. Don't be afraid to reach out to the BU community and ask for help if needed.
 - a. Utilize the power of the alumni network on a global scale. As of September 2020, there are nearly 347,000 alumni living around the world.
 - b. BU Alumni Association offers resources and services such as BU Connects, on-demand Career Library, Proud to BU podcast and networking and career events.