

Job Search Strategies for International Students



Career Center

San Francisco State University
Student Services Building
Room 206
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<http://www.sfsu.edu/~career>
Twitter: @SFStateCareer



Workshop Objectives

- To provide basic information on U.S. work authorizations for F-1 Visa holders
- To review the current job market and the realities of employment in the U.S.
- To familiarize international students with 8 effective U.S.-style job-search strategies



8 Job Search Strategies For International Students



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Which of the following questions can NOT legally be asked by an employer?

- A. Are you a U.S. citizen?
- B. Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?
- C. What is your work authorization?
- D. None of the above should be asked by an employer

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STRATEGY #1 : Educate yourself first!

- Do NOT rely on information from “friends”
- Attend the workshops sponsored by the Office of International Programs (regarding CPT, OPT, H-1b visa process, etc.)
- Learn the correct terminology
- Visit OIP's or the Career Center's website for printed information
 - *(What Employers Should Know About Hiring International Students)*



How many of you have a VISA?



3 Ways to Work in the U.S. for F-1 Visa Holders

- ❑ On-campus employment (during)
- ❑ Practical training
 - Curricular (CPT) (during)
 - Optional (OPT) (before or after)
- ❑ Temporary Work Visa (H1b-Visa) (after)
- ❑ Be sure to attend an OIP workshop, view an online workshop, or visit their website for more info

STRATEGY #2 : Develop a timeline or schedule



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Effective time management is very important

COMPLETION OF DEGREE DATE

What is the first thing you would do to begin your US-style job search?

- a. Check internet for jobs
- b. Go to career fairs
- c. Create a US-style resume
- d. Review my skills, values & interests

STRATEGY #3: Review your skills, values & interests

- Visit the Career Center, SSB 206
- Meet with a career counselor/advisor
- Use the Eureka Web-based program
 - UW2BEH6
- Complete self-assessment tests
- Review with career advisor

Can You Answer These Employer Questions?



What are your top 3 skills or abilities?

What are your career goals 3-5 years from now?

What kind of work are you interested in doing?

What type of company do you want to work for?

What are the Top 10 skills or personal qualities U.S. employers seek in job candidates?

- **Communication skills**
- **Honesty/integrity**
- **Interpersonal skills**
- **Motivation/initiative**
- **Strong work ethic**
- **Teamwork skills**
- **Analytical skills**
- **Flexibility/adaptability**
- **Computer skills**
- **Self-confidence**



* Lacking in new graduates

Employer Ranking of Important Outside Activities (Top 5)

1. Work experience that is job related
2. Leadership role in a student organization
3. Membership in student academic/pre-professional organization
4. Volunteer community service experience
5. Membership in student social organization



NACE Job Outlook 2007



STRATEGY #4 : Develop your skills

- Internship/co-op
- Volunteerism (Community Involvement Center CIC)
- Student government
- Residence hall organizations
- Part-time on-campus jobs
- SFSU clubs/organizations
- Professional associations



STRATEGY #5 : Review the Job Market



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Opportunities for Internationals Students

18.8% of employers plan to hire international students in 2010 for full-time permanent positions in the U.S.

Best Bet - business services industry:

marketing and advertising, consulting, legal services, logistics and shipping, human resources and staffing, leasing, security, outsourcing, and facility management

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STRATEGY #6 : Research careers and employers

- Target employers doing business in your country
 - SF State Library-reference section (search on “international business”)
 - Embassy/Consular Office
 - Chambers of Commerce

STRATEGY #6 : Research careers and employers

- Review the latest ranking of companies who have been granted H1-B visas for the past year
- Microsoft, Intel and KPMG are a few of the local companies who were granted H1-B petitions in 2009

Resource Examples

- Principal International Businesses, World Marketing Directory
- Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the U.S.
- Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries
- Director of Foreign Manufacturers in the U.S.
- World Business Directory
- Moody's International Manual
- Directory of Foreign Organizations Operating in the U.S.
- Korean Trade Directory
- Directory of Importers/Exporters
- Tokyo News Directory of Foreign Firms



International Career Fairs

- NACE International Student Virtual Career Fair
 - Go to the Career Center Web site
- Career Forum
 - Japanese speakers
 - New York, LA & Boston
 - www.discointer.com



Where Employers Look

1. Company's internship/co-op program*
2. On-campus interviews*
3. Employee referrals
4. Career/job fairs*
5. Faculty contacts
6. Internet job postings (own site)
7. Job postings to career center (printed)
8. Student organizations/clubs
9. Internet job posts (career center websites)



Where Students Look

1. Internet
2. Career website
3. Career Center website/GatorJOBS
4. Job postings (print) in Career Center
5. Corporate website
6. Job posting on corporate website
7. Newspaper ads
8. Career/job fairs*
9. Recruiting publications
10. Networking
11. Information sessions
12. Internships/co-ops*
13. On-campus interviews*

STRATEGY # 7 : Prepare a U.S. style resume and cover letter

- Use Optimal Resume on the Career Center Web site
- Review samples in the Career Center's resource library and on the Web site
- Attend the Rev Up Your Resume workshop
- Have your resume/cover letter critiqued during drop-in hours
 - Career Center, SSB 206, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday - Wednesday
 - One Stop, SSB, 4 p.m. - 6p.m., Monday - Tuesday

STRATEGY # 8 :

Learn about the U.S.-style interview

- Attend the Make the Interview Count workshop
- Use Perfect Interview on the Career Center Web site (Web based)
- Participate in Practice Interview Day
(priority appointment if attend workshop)
- Meet with a career counselor/advisor



Many resources are available to assist you with your job search in the U.S. or your home country, so:

- Take the initiative,
- Discover what they are,
- Take advantage of them,
- And begin early.



WEBSITES

HTIR International Student (Paid Internships)

<http://www.internationalstudent.com/htir/>

H1Visa Jobs (Americans Firms matched with International Professionals)

<http://www.h1visajobs.com/>

IStudent City (work for International Students)

http://www.istudentcity.com/career/career_placement.asp

JobOffer (work for International Students)

<http://www.jobofer.org/>

International Student Jobs (work for international Students)

<http://internationalstudentsjobs.com/>

IAGora (work, study abroad, internships)

<http://www.iagora.com/>

CoolWorks (seasonal work)

<http://www.coolworks.com>



THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

Please complete our BRIEF
feedback from

