

How Do I Prepare to be Competitive for an Internship or Job Search?

International Students should be aware of what they are eligible to do towards their career development on and off campus. Simply completing a degree may not allow you to be competitive with students who have the immediate ability to work on or off campus to gain relevant experience. The first step to becoming more competitive in the workforce is to research your possible work eligibilities and resources. To help you get started, here is some valuable information:

Eligibilities On-Campus and Off-Campus for Student Employment

To view your eligibility as an international student at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) you can visit the website below and view links listed under Employment.

- <http://www.nova.edu/internationalstudents/faqs.html>

The link below provides information from a governmental Web site. The Web page briefly discusses the two practical training programs Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT).

- <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/practical-training/>
The information provided by the website above may vary from Nova Southeastern University's rules and requirements. Please speak to the NSU Office of International Affairs for the most current rules and requirements.

Nova Southeastern University provides over 50 employment positions on-campus and 6 off-campus positions. To seek further information, visit the NSU Office of Financial Aid Student Employment.

- On-campus employment is restricted to 20 hours/week, with the exception of breaks.

Involvement on Campus

Involvement through campus organizations is another way to become more competitive for job opportunities after you graduate. Nova Southeastern University provides over 70 organizations and clubs on-campus.

- Through an organization or club, you may gain skills and experience employers seek, such as: leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, teamwork skills and communication skills.
- Choose organizations that are relevant to your field to create networking, leadership and involvement opportunities.
- Visit www.orgsync.com and find NSU to view all clubs and organizations.

How do I Gain Relevant Experience?

Internships

International students, with various statuses, have the option to gain experiences in their field of study while enrolled in classes. This can be done through an internship or a temporary position with an emphasis on direct field of study training, rather than merely employment, which can be paid or unpaid. Students will gain a competitive edge towards their future employment after completing one or more internships in their field. For more information on obtaining an internship please visit Career Development.

Networking

International students can give themselves a competitive edge by making specific, strategic, meaningful, mutual connections with others and staying in regular contact with them. Networking can significantly increase your chances of finding a great career opportunity. Networking will allow international students to stand out among other job seekers who have citizenship. For more information on how to network and connecting with related groups please visit Career Development.

Key Points for International Students

Where There is Opportunity for International Students

- Hidden job market
- Exporters to your country
- U.S. companies active in your language region/doing business in your home country
- Others from your home country who are officers or owners of companies
- Others from your home country who have jobs in the U.S.
- Former international students with jobs in the U.S.
- Companies in rural areas that are exporting
- Your home country consulate

Where There is Limited Opportunity for International Students

- Direct head-to-head competition with US citizens when you have no competitive edge
- Announced openings which draw hundreds or thousands of applicants

The Value International Students Add to U.S. Companies

- *Adaptability/Autonomy*
Explain to employers how you have managed to adapt to a new environment and its culture.
- *Language Skills*
Knowledge of more than one language could help an organization to communicate with overseas markets and suppliers.
- *A Broader Perspective*
Your experiences of how cultures vary can bring a fresh perspective to a company.
- *Cultural Awareness*
You could use your particular cultural background to advise and inform an organization on how to make the right impact on their international customers and clients.