



# Career Readiness Resources

## Study Abroad and Career

Courtesy of Georgetown University



# STUDY ABROAD AND CAREER

## STORY KNOWING & STORY TELLING

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### WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?

Experiential learning is an umbrella term for student experiences that happen outside the classroom. It includes everything from volunteering, study abroad, and participation in student groups, to work study, research, and internships. These “hands on” experiences allow you to learn by doing, and are a good complement to the academic learning environment.

### STORY KNOWING

In order to communicate the value of your experiences to potential employers, it is first necessary to understand these experiences for yourself. By spending some time reflecting on and organizing your story, it will then be easier to share it in an authentic and relevant way. See below for some helpful ways to reflect:

- What did you enjoy the most about this experience? (setting – a new skill or interest – relationships you established – autonomy – coursework – work life balance – new perspective or lesson learned)
- How might you stay connected (to people from the experience, to concepts learned during the experience)?
- What questions (career-related or not) have you refined or discovered while studying abroad? How might you explore these questions now that you’re back?
- Were there hard things? How did you deal with or get through them?
- Have your ideas about career stuff shifted or solidified as a result of your time abroad? (It’s okay if not...)



## STORY TELLING

Consider what parts of your study abroad story might be relevant to a career-related opportunity you're considering.

Example: I'd like to work in an environment with a lot of teamwork. I might share a story from a group project I did while studying abroad, because it illustrates not only my ability to work with others but to do so in a cross-cultural context.

Example: I'm not sure where I want to work exactly, but I know I'd like a place with some sort of international component. My weekend travels gave me a chance to meet people from all over the world, so I might reference a story or two from that to illustrate my interest in cultural exchange.

Example: I'm hoping to find an off-campus job as a server at a restaurant. My ability to handle lots of changes quickly while abroad might serve me well in a fast-paced environment like The Tombs.

Example: If I'm asked in an interview for a time when I overcame a challenge, I'll have a whole cadre of stories from my time in another country!

## Resume

Usually, a reference to study abroad will fit in the Education section of the resume. Include the name of the institution, location, and dates you attended. You may choose to include other details if relevant.

Activities outside the classroom can be listed in your Experience section.

## Interviewing

An interviewer may have particular questions about your experience which will allow you the opportunity to discuss it more in depth. However, even if it is not brought up directly, you can still share parts of the story to act as examples of your abilities and help the interviewer learn more about you.

**Below are some questions that can help you talk about your experience in the context of an interview. Practice answering these questions using examples from studying abroad.**

- Tell me about a time when you showed initiative.
  
- Give me an example of a time when you dealt with pressure.
  
- Tell me about a time that you had to organize and plan for a major project.
  
- Tell me about a time when you worked with a difficult person.