



MASSEY UNIVERSITY Career and Employment Service

Finding a Graduate Job Overseas

Any experience that you can gain of immersing yourself in another culture can be challenging, rewarding and valued by employers.

Why do you want to work overseas?

Graduates leave New Zealand for many reasons. Some are keen to return home. Many seek to experience different cultures. Others discover that the opportunities to gain work experience that's relevant to their career are greater overseas.

Then, there are those who use time spent abroad to reflect on what they want before embarking on a long-term career. For others, the decision is based on the greater earning potential or better conditions that some countries may offer.

These are, of course, only some of the possible reasons. In all instances however, time spent working abroad can offer you the chance to develop skills and use strengths that employers value highly. By working with people from other cultures you'll enhance your cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity. Equally, finding, securing and succeeding in a job abroad will show initiative; research; determination; persistence and creativity. You may improve your knowledge of other languages, and certainly of other cultures.

What to Consider:

Finding a graduate job overseas is likely to take considerable time and effort. Additionally, success in doing so is more likely if you have clear objectives. We suggest that you ask yourself:

- What are my goals? Where do I want to work and why?
- Which organisations would I like to work for, and what would I like to do in my work?
- How long would I like to be overseas for? What might I do on returning to NZ?
- How much time can I devote to searching and applying for work overseas?
- What do I know about the country or countries that appeal to me?
- What are the conventions concerning CVs and interviews for these countries?
- Do I have a right to work in these countries – what visas and permits are necessary?
- Where relevant, am I competent in the languages that I need to work abroad?
- If I experience 'culture shock' when I move abroad, how might I deal with it?
- How might a move abroad impact on anyone going with me, and those I leave in NZ?
- Who and what might help me to find work overseas?

Vacancy sources for graduate jobs overseas

When looking for work abroad you could start by reviewing the websites of NZ organisations to see if they have a presence in the countries that interest you. Note that in some instances, their opportunities abroad may be for current staff with relevant experience (possibly seconded from the NZ office) or for people based in the country concerned. For help with this you may want to access business directories such as Kompass – <http://www.kompass.co.nz>

Then, we recommend that you explore journals, magazines and newspapers that relate to relevant employment sectors in the countries that interest you. Kidon Media-Link, accessible at: <http://www.kidon.com/media-link/index.php> offers links to almost twenty-thousand newspapers and other news sources from almost every country and territory in the world.

As is the case when looking for work in NZ making contact with people based abroad who are working in your chosen career field is an invaluable way of accessing advice and learning of possible job opportunities. The Career and Employment Service staff can advise you on how you might do this – see 'how to contact us' at <http://careers.massey.ac.nz>

Useful international job posting websites include:

- [Job vacancy websites for NZ and overseas](#): You can access this under the 'how to find work' tab on the [Career and Employment Service's website](#): <http://careers.massey.ac.nz>
- [Prospects Country Profiles](#): Offer very useful information on finding jobs and work experience in over 50 countries around the world. Go to <http://www.prospects.ac.uk> and select the 'careers advice' tab to access these.
- [4 International Careers & Jobs](#): An international employment directory and search engine featuring reviews and web rankings of 12,000 career and job sites in 200 countries. To access this site go to: <http://www.4icj.com/>
- [Jobs abroad](#): A directory of over 27,000 opportunities abroad updated daily. See: <http://jobs.goabroad.com/>
- [Vault Career Insider](#). On this site you'll find guides on employers in a range of countries together with information on a range of other topics. See: <http://www.vault.com>

If you are an **international student returning home** on graduation, the Career and Employment Service website offers access to useful guides. These cover sixteen countries and are available by selecting the '[international students](#)' tab at <http://careers.massey.ac.nz>

If you are a **PhD student** the '[postgraduate students](#)' section of the Career and Employment Service's website (<http://careers.massey.ac.nz>) offers links to a number of international vacancy sites for doctoral students and graduates.

Visa requirements

To obtain accurate visa information about the countries where you are interested in working, it is vital that you access the websites of relevant embassies. For these go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz> and select the '[Embassies](#)' tab.

For further information

If you are seeking further information on finding a graduate job overseas, please refer to the [Career and Employment Service](#): <http://careers.massey.ac.nz>