



Top Ten Tips for International Students seeking Internships, Co-ops or Jobs

An American internship, co-op or even a credible volunteer experience in your field allows you to gain experience, which will be an extremely important factor in your future success seeking after-graduation employment in this country. You will have to search for any of these opportunities, although your department will help with a co-op search. These tips offer long term strategies as well as immediately available resources to help you learn to search effectively.

1. The Career Services website www.careerservices.neu.edu has information and resources on every aspect of the American job search process. Carefully review guides on [resumes](#), [interviewing](#), [job search](#) and [networking](#). (website Handouts) Read these before you make an appointment to make the best use of your time.
2. **Attend** a job search small group for international students BEFORE you make an appointment with a counselor. These are offered Tuesdays 5-6 pm in 101 Stearns. **Attend** other workshops targeted to international students needs. See website.
3. **Use InterviewStream** (website, Career Tools) to practice interviewing at your convenience, BEFORE you make an interview practice appointment. Learn about telephone screening interviews.
4. **Use HuskyCareerLink** (on myNEU) to find internship and job opportunities for students with little work experience. After September 15, access your account in HuskyCareerLink by following directions on the login screen.
5. Attend Career Fairs before you are really looking, to observe how they work. Research carefully which employers are interested in seeing international students and visit only those. Workshops will prepare you to use this opportunity well.
6. Spend time with American English speakers to polish your expressive English language and your American social skills. **The most successful international students** (Read **Hear it from your Seniors** on the International Student part of the website) are communicators with strong interaction skills. They have learned about how Americans conduct themselves professionally, about American informality and humor, and about how to present themselves confidently. If you do not have naturally strong social interaction skills, you need to commit to learning and practicing them. Joining organizations lets you observe and practice social behaviors and practice your English. Join at least one which organization which has American student members. This takes time – start now!
7. **Build a network and learn to connect.** You are away from your natural network, so you need to build and use a new network to help you get information about hiring in your field. Learn about Linkedin.com, (see career guide) a professional networking site that can help you with this or attend a LinkedIn Lab workshop.
8. **Search widely and apply for jobs selectively.** You will dramatically increase your success if you do. Employers **do not like** students to apply for jobs unless they have the specific qualifications listed in the job posting. Employers **do not like** to receive applications from international students if their job posting states applicants must be American citizens or permanent residents. You will not be successful if you do this. **Make a back up plan.** No matter how hard you try, no matter how effective a search you conduct, there is no guarantee that you will be able to get an internship, co-op or job, especially in this tight economy.
9. **Understand and abide by** the rules of your visa or face consequences which could be dire. Speak to your **ISSI advisor**.
10. Career Services is here to help you learn the skills to be successful in an internship or job search. Use our resources!