International Student Career Fair Prep

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What to expect at the Career Fair

- Over 160 plus employers, 2,500+ students,
- Cabot Gymnasium, 2-6 p.m.

Networking opportunities
- Learn about companies
- Make connections/Build relationships
- Not all employers take resumes
- Not all employers are currently hiring
- Make a lasting impression
Overview

- **What employers expect**
  - Interactive conversation about your interest in their company

- **How to prepare**
  - Research employers-Career fair brochure lists co’s open to Int’ls

- **How to present yourself**
  - Dress/Hygiene
  - Handshake
  - Elevator speech

- **How to follow up after the fair**
What employers expect

- Companies want to share information with students about their organization in a centralized format
- Showcase roles and opportunities and provide more detailed information beyond their website
- See who makes an impression!
How to Prepare: Research Employers

- Learn as much as you can about the employer. You do not have to be a leading expert on the organization, but know what the employer does, primary products or services, basic industry information, why the organization interests you, and how you can contribute.

- Thoroughly review the employer homepage; use LinkedIn, Google, Glass Door, Hoovers, Going Global and other online tools.

- Use online resources in the Career Links section of our website including Vault.com, WetFeet.com, and Vocational Biographies.

- Download and PRINT the Career Fair Brochure (located in the Career Fair section of the Career Services website) and know which companies are open to recruiting international students (page 23 in the brochure)

- Have your A, B, and C list of employers already mapped out!

_THERE WILL BE NO PRINTED BROCHURES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER FAIR!!!!_
How to Handle your International Student Status

• There are 4 types of companies:
  1. Don’t and won’t
  2. Do and will: they’ve done it before and will do it again
  3. Never done before and not sure: they might be open to it
  4. Have done it for certain positions: they will consider it based on the position

• ADVICE: Do your research!
  ➢ Look at Going Global, the Department of Labor, myvisajobs.com
  ➢ Attend the H1B Workshop, March 28, Raytheon Amphitheater/240 Egan@3:45-5:15; Also: Interviewing American-Style, Feb. 21

• When and how do you bring it up?
  TIP: www.myvisajobs: Don’t Ask, Learn Ahead of Time
Proper Attire

- Classic Styles
- Heels
- Non-distracting jewelry
- No perfume
- Simple/clean nails
- Hair off face

AVOID!

DO'S

DON'TS
Proper Attire

Men's Attire

Shoes/dark socks, belt, tie, NO cologne, clean fingernails, consider shaving
A Career Fair Networker’s “A Game”

Deodorant

Dental
The Introduction:

- Employers typically form a lasting impression within the first few minutes. Begin with:
  - a firm handshake and good eye contact
  - a warm smile and confident introduction
  - a sense of enthusiasm and confidence!
  - Present elevator speech

- Be ready to answer an opening question:
  - “Tell me about yourself”
  - “Tell me what you know/like about our company”
How to Prepare: Elevator Speech

- My name is ______, and I am a (senior, Masters student) in ________. (field/major)
- _______ (Company name)interests me because___________________.
- I am interested in (x) position at _________ (Company name) because...
- My experience (or skills) are in _______. (Provide info about your relevant experience or relevant skills related to this position, and maybe an example. )
- Mention why you’re interested in the company if you’ve researched the company
- (OR) I noticed that you don’t currently have a position posted, but I’m wondering if there may be any opportunities coming down the pipeline that would suit my skill set.
- Find a way to make yourself memorable if you can!
  - My last employer said “____________” about me.
  - I really enjoy ________.
  - Ask a question from your researching the company or conversation with the employer or knowledge of the position
**Practice your Elevator Speech**

- Take a few minutes to construct your elevator speech (also called a 60 second commercial, or a pitch)
- Find a partner
- Deliver your speeches to each other
- What did your partner do well?
- What could your partner improve on?
- Practice, Practice, Practice and You’ll be a Pro at this!
FINAL TIPS

- If you mention you’re a quick learner, be prepared to talk about something you taught yourself.

- Be sure not to argue with the recruiter.

- Be sure to leave time to talk with companies you hadn’t thought of.

- The fair ends at 6:00 pm “sharp”. Getting there earlier rather than later is ALWAYS better!
• Don’t be distracted by the crowd. Be Engaged with them in the conversation for the few minutes you have.

• Respect the line- don’t give up your turn. Don’t take too much time. Read cues.

• Have a game plan for your conversation—do you want to learn about the culture of the company? Learn about the department?

• Ask for the business card to write a thank you
Follow Up & Follow Through!

After the Fair:

- Within 24 hours, **write a thank you note (email)**
  - Use this opportunity wisely:
    - Did you follow through on employers’ suggestions?
    - This is an opportunity to add, enrich, reinforce your interest and qualifications!