International Student
Small Group Job Search
Goals of this Session

 Present success strategies for international students
  ▪ Understanding the basics of American job searching
  ▪ Matching skills and experience to job
  ▪ Networking: Connecting with people

 Review job search resources
  ▪ University Career Services resources
  ▪ Other resources
Challenges for International Students

• The economy

• Some challenges always exist
  ○ Federal Government, Defense Contractors, etc.

• Some employers hire students on F-1’s or J-1’s; some don’t

• Visa status – can you explain yours?

• Work experience – take advantage of any opportunities you are eligible to obtain
Typical American Style Job Search

1. Target employers/jobs to apply to
2. Apply to jobs (Resume & Cover Letter)
3. Interview
4. Receive offer
5. Salary negotiation
6. Accept or reject the offer

(Once you accept an offer, even verbally, you cannot accept another offer instead. Accepting an offer is making a commitment. It is never appropriate to back out once you’ve accepted.)
Job Search Skills

Use Career Services resources to learn more:
workshops, walk-ins, appointments, and handouts

- **Learn the relevant skills** – review our job search
  handouts for relevant information

- **Prepare** – resume and cover letter, research employers,
  practice interviews

**Position** yourself starting now!

- Polish and practice your spoken English
- Observe Americans interacting – learn nuances
- Join student groups, professional associations, clubs
Matching Skills and Experience to the Job

• Employers hire people for their skills

○ Read job descriptions carefully– make sure your resume reflects your skills accurately

○ If the match between your skills/experience and what “they” want is not strong, do not apply for that job
  § Required vs. desired

○ Focus your energy on jobs where the match is good!
Connecting with People

- Networking – being in touch with others
  - to increase your knowledge of your field, companies, types of jobs
  - to find out about opportunities
  - to get referrals

- Who is in your network?
  - Think about people you know, both inside and outside the US
Mapping Connections

- Church/Mosque/Temple
- Professors
- Research connections in the field
- Part-time work colleagues
- Family contacts in the US
- Friend’s parent in field
- Classmates
Connecting with People

How do you use and expand your network?

- Resources: handouts on Informational Interviewing and Networking Etiquette

- See: Alumni Success Panel for how International Student Alumni landed positions: watch video to hear NU alumni success stories.

- Networking success stories of your own?
Connecting with People

- How do you use and expand your network?
  - LinkedIn, Husky Nation
- If you find out about someone working in your field of interest, how would you approach them and what would you say?
- Is it appropriate to ask a contact for a referral?
- Give 1 or 2 examples of questions you would like to ask in an informational interview?
- If you have a contact in a company with a vacancy you want to apply to, what would you do?
Job Search Resources

- Career Services Resources
  - HuskyCareerLink –
    - On-Campus Recruiting – graduating students
    - Jobs database
    - Employer database
    - Upload resumes – publish
    - Review job descriptions – **look for visa requirements**
  - Interview Stream
  - Going Global
  - [www.myvisajobs.com](http://www.myvisajobs.com)
  - Career Fair – list of employers, tips on website
  - Career Services workshops – calendar
  - Alumni Success Panel
    [http://www.northeastern.edu/careerservices/international/index.html](http://www.northeastern.edu/careerservices/international/index.html)
Other Resources

  - For finding companies and jobs

- Industry specific job search sites
  - See majors Career services online handouts

Temporary Staffing Agencies
- See handout on Career Services website
- Explore with ISSI whether you can utilize this strategy for OPT

Weekly Count of H-1B Visas Applied for Against H-1B Cap
http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4b7cdd1d5fd37210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=73566811264a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD

Dreambridge Resource Library and Q&A Forum
http://dreambridgepartners.com/members-only
The Two Country Job Search

- **Consider** conducting a Two Country Job Search
- **Explore** the job market in the U.S. & in Your Home Country
- **Many** students will also consider job connections they have in a third country where they are eligible to work.
- **Develop** a Plan A and a Plan B, and sometimes a Plan C
- **Create** success: Select the best opportunity for you
- **Utilize** All Your Resources
Questions and Next Steps

- Review website and handouts
- Daily walk in hours 1:30-3:30 pm
- Appointments – use myNEU, Career Services tab
  - Please remember...American appointments start promptly at the time of the appointment, not sometime in the time slot! At 4 pm for an appointment that goes from 4 to 5 pm.