



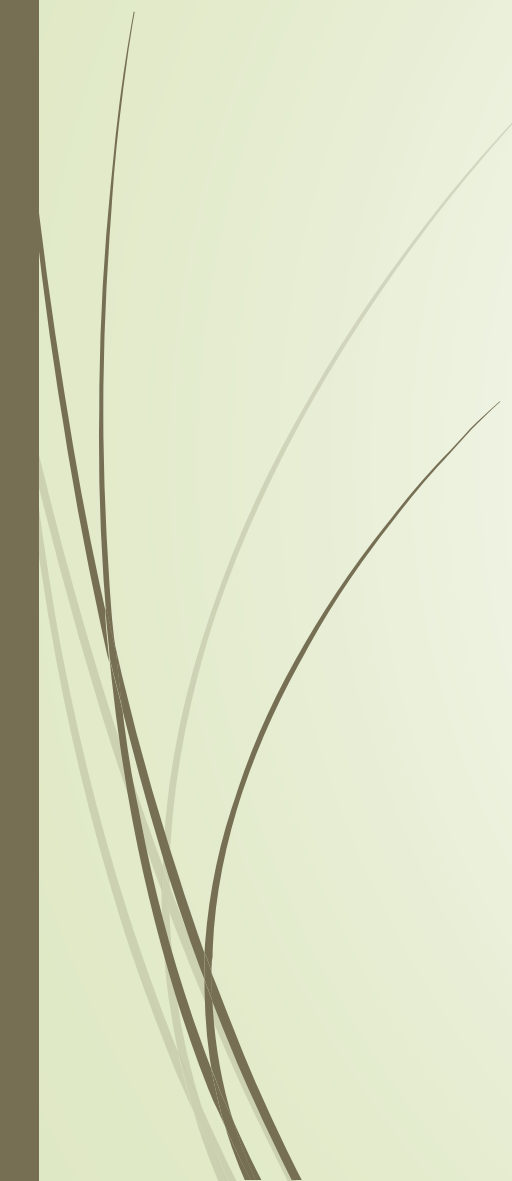
# Translating Study Away into Employability

Learn how to use your international experience to boost your marketability

Advantage Center Staff



# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Employer Perspective
  - Reflection
  - Translation into transferrable skills
  - Resume – brief formatting ideas
  - Interview questions (interaction)
- 



# Employer Perspectives

Michigan State's Collegiate Employment Research Institute has been looking at the value of the study abroad experience in their research with employers since 1998.

- ▶ Research from the Collegiate Employment Research Institute found that **some** employers view study abroad programs as “**academic tourism**.” The report also noted that many students find it difficult to communicate the value of their overseas experience, which can lead to unfavorable impressions by employers.



# Employer Perspectives

In subsequent informal focus groups with employers the Institute explored the factors that may be behind the appearance that study abroad just does not resonate as a useful experience in identifying qualified candidates. The conversations settled around three major themes:

- lack of awareness
- academic tourism
- inability to articulate experience toward the workplace.

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The impression recruiters often gain from hearing students describe their study abroad experience can best be summed up as “academic tourism”. Students’ presentations are like a travel logs: highlighting the cool places they visited with a little academic work thrown into the mix.



# Employer Perspectives

## On the other hand.....

But what about the concrete facts: does international experience actually improve the chances of landing a job for recent graduates?

- ▶ According to a study done by NACE, about 49% of the general population of recent graduates finds a job within 12 months of graduation, compared to 97% of study abroad alumni.
- ▶ Their salaries are also higher. The average starting salaries for a 2014 graduate was \$45,478, but the salaries of graduates with international experience were approximately \$7,000/year more! 80% of those surveyed believed that their time abroad helped them acquire their first position due to valuable skills developed overseas, like tolerance for diversity and ambiguity, communication skills, and adaptability.



# Employer Perspectives

## *Focus on Competencies*

In the NACE Job Outlook 2017 survey results, employers ranked the following as the **top Career Readiness Competencies they require** when hiring recent graduates:

- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving 4.58
- Professionalism/Work Ethic 4.56
- Oral/Written Communications 4.43
- Teamwork/Collaboration 4.43
- Leadership 3.86
- Information Technology Application 3.78
- Career Management 3.47
- Global/Multicultural Fluency 2.85

\*5-point scale, where 1=No influence at all, 2=Not much influence, 3=Somewhat of an influence, 4=Very much influence, and 5=Extreme influence.



# Employer Perspectives

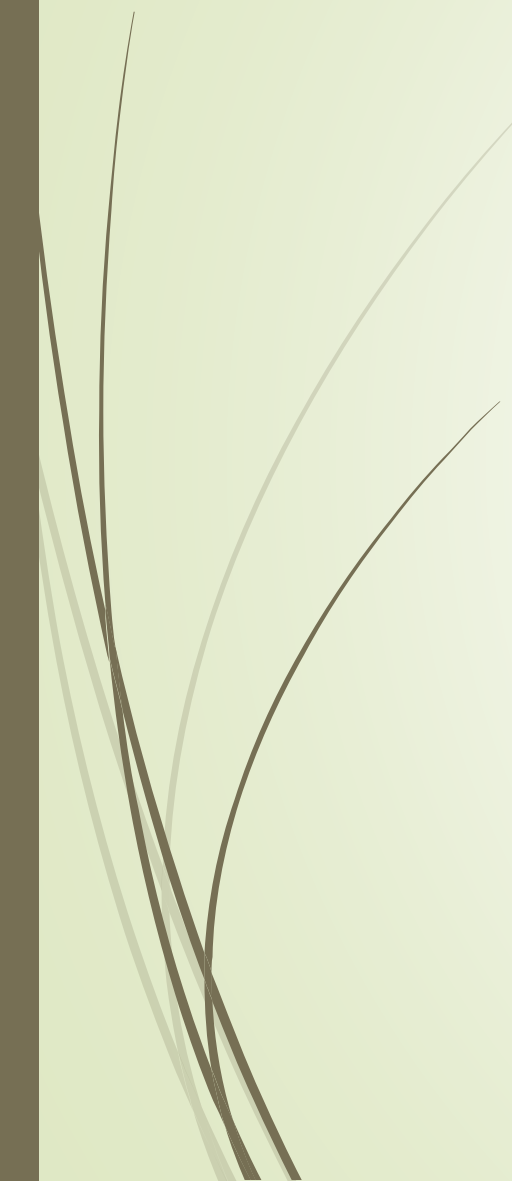
## *Focus on Competencies*

### EMPLOYERS RATE **RECENT GRADUATES ON THE 8 CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES**

- ▶ Teamwork/Collaboration 3.96
- ▶ Information Technology Application 3.92
- ▶ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving 3.59
- ▶ Professionalism/Work Ethic 3.43
- ▶ Oral/Written Communications 3.41
- ▶ Leadership 3.38
- ▶ Career Management 3.09
- ▶ Global/Multicultural Fluency 2.93



# Reflection

- Describe your program (study abroad)
  - Courses
  - Experiential learning/differences in cultural perspective
  - Challenges
  - What did you learn there that you would not have learned here?
- 







# Translation into transferrable skills

What are some transferrable skills that you could both place on your resume and use in an interview?



# Transferrable skills to think about.....

- 
- Adaptability
  - Assertiveness
  - Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
  - Cross Cultural Communication
  - Foreign Language Proficiency
  - Time Management
  - Teamwork/Collaboration



How do you portray your Study Away on  
your resume?



# Resume

## Brief Formatting Ideas

### **Education section**

Institute for the International Education of Students, La Plata, Argentina Summer 2012

- Completed coursework in Latin American culture and society
- Demonstrated willingness to take risks through enrollment in Spanish-speaking curriculum
- Gained fluency in Spanish by living with a host family
- Participated in a research project on.....



# Resume

## Brief Formatting Ideas

### Experience Section

#### FOREIGN STUDY

*University of Salamanca*, Salamanca, Spain, Fall 2018

Participated in total language immersion program; lived with host family, speaking only Spanish.

Completed Spanish history, art, and literature courses taught in Spanish by native scholars.

- ▶ During marketing course project, led a team of five students in creating an advertising campaign for a Spanish audience, mediating creative differences between members and managing objectives and work assignments to meet deadlines successfully.



# Resume

## Brief Formatting Ideas

### **Activities Section**

*Lived and studied in Mumbai, India*

*Traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia from July to December 2011*



# Thank You

Special thanks to.....

- Collegiate Employment Research Institute Career Services, Michigan State University
- GVSU's, Study Abroad to Career Guide
- Harvey Mudd College, Career Services, Putting Your Study Abroad Experience to Work
- NACE Job Outlook 2017
- Thanks to Annmarie Post for her dedication and commitment to the AQ community