



# Study Abroad & Employability

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## Introduction

In today's world, having an undergraduate degree is becoming increasingly ordinary. So much so, that students need to take advantage of opportunities outside of the typical university classroom in order to stand out in a competitive job market.

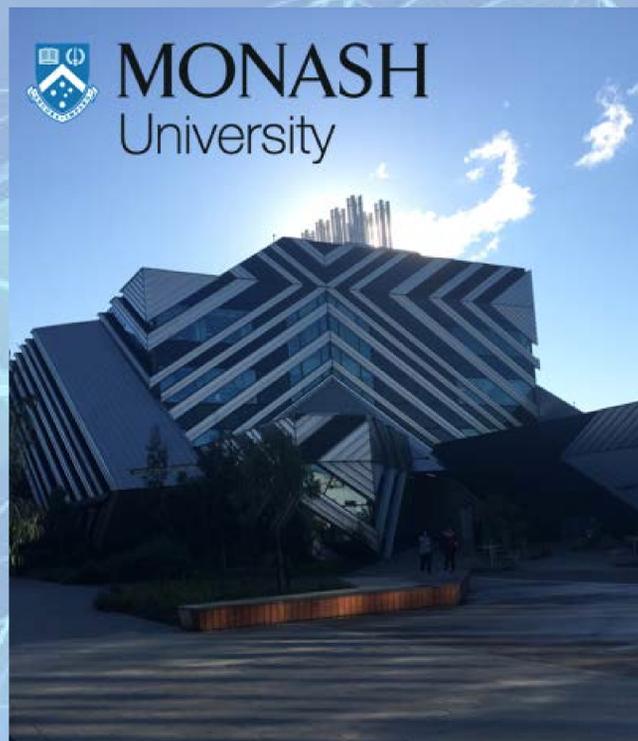
Participating on a study abroad program provides a way for students to gain unique international experience that will allow them to use the skills acquired from their study abroad program to help them obtain gainful and satisfying employment. This experience can help tailor a student's skill set to optimize their potential value to a company, as students are given the resources of more than one university, an ability to widen their network in more than one country and the invaluable opportunity to live in another country like no other experience can. Furthermore, students can and should tailor their study abroad experience to help reach their goals in order to maximize the benefits that will help pave their way to determine and achieve desired employment.

## Comparable to U.S. Higher Education

- Students can take courses to satisfy major, minor and general education requirements to stay on track and graduate on time.
- Students can study abroad on an exchange program at a similar cost to their home university.
- Financial aid and home university scholarships can assist students with the cost of a study abroad program, as they do with costs of a semester or academic year at their home university.

## Competitive Edge

- Study your major/minor through a **global perspective**.
- **Strengthen learning capabilities** through experiencing a foreign education system with regionally relevant content.
- Take advantage of courses and academic resources, which differ from your home campus.
- Enhance your circle of **contacts** with international students, faculty, and employers.



## Internship in Hong Kong

- Opportunity to work in an international company and build interpersonal skills with a multinational staff.
- Gained valuable experience on how to be **professional** in the workplace.
- Exposed to different job positions to give direction in potential career path.
- Created a strong **network** of business professionals on a global level.



## Applicable Knowledge

- **Expanded comfort levels** through exposure to foreign environments.
- **Learned problem solving** and **communication skills** when faced with obstacles both in/out of school.
- Learned to **budget** and **managed finances** in foreign currencies.
- **Enhanced time management** by balancing travels and study.

## Implications for Employers

- Developed a strong sense of academic, personal, and financial **independence**.
- Became more flexible, resourceful, adaptable, and open to change.
- Gained **transferable skills** including problem solving, critical thinking, and intercultural communication.

## Conclusion

Study abroad is a meaningful and rewarding opportunity that gives students the ability to acquire relevant skills that will be needed for their future careers and coveted by employers. Participation on a study abroad program not only helps students stand out as potential candidates for an employment opportunity, but also enables them to conduct a dynamic discussion during the interview process. As study abroad programs become more readily available throughout schools nationwide, students should really consider participating on a study abroad program and how this once in a lifetime international experience could be used to gain skills and qualities to create a competitive résumé, gain confidence and relevant overseas experiences to help them shine during interviews, and secure employment to develop a successful career.