

Going around the world for your education.

That's the magic.

10 Ways to get the most out of your Internship Abroad by Rachael Taft, LifeAfterStudyAbroad.com

1. Set Goals (measurable ones, if possible).

Write them down and hold yourself accountable. Decide that you want to become more fluent in your host country's language. Find a test to take before and after your experience to measure improvement. For goals that are not easy to measure, keeping a journal is a great way to track progress.

2. Keep track of everything you do at your Internship.

Note everything, from tasks to accomplishments. If you have any kind of numbers to back this up- write it down! This will be crucial when you start job-hunting back home. You will be able to look back and make strong connections to your internship experience and form concrete examples of how you exhibited required skills and performed certain duties.

3. Form a strong relationship with your supervisor, and stay in touch after you leave.

It's great to be able to list an international internship on your resume, but it is even better to list your boss as a reference. Not all employees may go to length to contact someone abroad- especially if there is a language barrier- but it's good to know that they can. You should also try to stay connected with as many coworkers as you can (use LinkedIn).

4. Reflect on your journey, personally and professionally.

Put some thought into your future and how your current actions can influence it.

5. Document your experience on a blog and be active on social media.

This is a great way to show off your experience & highlight your skills. It may also help you network, as you never know when that blog follower may help you land a job. Having writing & social media skills never hurts!

6. Get to know what companies work with your host company.

When you return home and start looking for a job, you may not want to pursue a future with the company you interned with, but you may find you are interested in an organization that has a connection to your host company.

7. Take the experience seriously.

Take your internship as seriously as you would one at home. Feel like you are being underutilized? Take initiative and seek out things to do, introduce ideas, make yourself useful and leave your mark.

8. But don't be TOO serious.

It's not just about work experience. It's about experiencing the country and culture as well. Get to know your co-workers. Immerse yourself until it feels like home. Enriching yourself personally, discovering new passions and ideas, pushing your own limits and expanding your comfort zone are all just as important as gaining new professional skills.

9. Say "yes" to opportunities.

No matter what they are, work-related or otherwise. Say yes to whatever tasks or projects thrown your way. Say yes to offers to have dinner with a co-worker or spend the weekend at their family vacation home. Seize every opportunity to enrich your experience and further yourself personally and professionally.

10. Pay close attention to your feelings and intuition.

Sometimes an internship confirms that you are pursuing the right career. Sometimes it makes you take a second look at your path. Even if your internship makes you realize that you don't want to work in that field or position, it can help you determine what you do and don't like. You will notice patterns, which can be helpful figure out what is right for you.