

HOW TO PREPARE

- ADVISE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Eight essential tips for those who want to make an international career are presented here.

1

Develop your global engagement! During your studies it is important to search for internships or participate in organisations involved in global development. Generally, it is an advantage to already have shown an interest and gained experiences from an international environment when you begin to look for jobs. If you don't have anything related to international questions in your CV, it can be much harder to get an international job position.

2

Have patience! It is difficult and tedious to search for and find jobs in the international sector. But it is possible if you have patience. Do not expect to get your dream job right away, and be prepared to search for jobs in many different organisations. Consider volunteering for a global/ development organisation to gain international experience.



3

Combining areas of knowledge! Undergraduate education sub-focuses are important, but rarely a decisive factor in employment. For example, as a forester, it might be advantageous to also take courses concerning forests in tropical areas; to pair agronomy with gender studies may be a good combination; or linking veterinary science with business management could give you an edge. If you are serious about an international career, it is always valuable to complement your primary area of study with courses in development studies, international relations, or other relevant topics.

4

Get work experience! It is often necessary to have a few years of work experience before you can get a conventional job within the field of global development – employment opportunities rarely go to recent graduates. Because the international context is often complicated when it comes to decision making, processes and analysis, employers are looking for candidates with concrete experience in professional situations. Improve your chances of getting hired by attaining experience through an internship, volunteer position, or field study in an international context.

“Large organisations and institutions often have well established recruitment processes with career days, recruitment events etc. It is useful to follow these organisations on various social media to stay current on internship announcements, jobs, and recruitment events.”
- Ghada M. Ramirez, Arbetsförmedlingen

5

If possible, get a research education! For a lot of international positions a research education is a good basis. Even though you don't want to work with research the rest of your life, having a PhD may open the door for you in many international organisations and companies.

6

Highlight your strengths and unique skills! For your application to stand out from the crowd and land you an interview, you must clearly demonstrate your relevant experience and your motivation should be easy to follow. Your cover letter should highlight your strengths and unique skills and communicate why you are interested in the position, how you meet the qualification requirements, as well as demonstrate your relevant experience. Read more at “[Writing your CV and cover letter](#)”.

7

Learn more languages! Knowing English is generally a necessity for an international career. Often, it is an advantage to be able to speak one of the major global languages such as Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Arabic. Consider staying a few months in a country and taking an intensive course in that language as a way to learn a foreign language and make yourself more attractive to international employers.

8

Develop your network! Having the right connections can be crucial both to obtaining information about existing job offers and for getting the job. Cultivate relationships by participating in networks and meetings where international questions are discussed. Develop a presence by physically participating in recruitment meetings, conferences and events, and through digital networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook.