



My Work Abroad Guide

Working abroad can bring you higher income, career advancement, better quality of life and build memorable new experiences. But how do you get started? Follow this five-step guide to start your own journey.

In this guide, we'll look at the following:

- Researching target destination
- International job search planning
- Identifying your niche
- Polishing your resume and personal branding
- Putting in the work to find jobs abroad

Step 1: Researching Target Destination

This is the fun part. When thinking about working abroad, the first thing on your mind may be where? Start by researching potential destination countries that align with your career goals, lifestyle preference and language proficiency. When you are set, narrow it down to one specific city.

What to consider when researching your abroad destination :

- **What is your 'why'?** Take some time to reflect on why you want to work abroad? Is it for professional development, cultural immersion or new experiences? Having a why will be important in your later stages when building your story.
- **Relocation factors:** Consider job market demand, costs of living, quality of life and visa regulations. Websites like [Expatistan](#) or [Numbeo](#) can provide valuable

insights into living expenses and local conditions. Consider contacting the local consulate to learn about work visas and regulations

Step 2: International job search planning

When you look for jobs abroad, it's essential to have a clear strategy. You should plan each monthly and weekly action in your agenda and set realistic targets. Having a clear roadmap ahead will help you keep on track and feel less overwhelmed.

What to include when planning your international job search:

- **Define your milestones:** you will need to research your target destination, identify your niche, set up your personal brand, start networking and apply to positions.
- **Add your weekly goals in your calendar:** over the next 3–4 months, what are your goals? And what input will you put on a weekly and daily basis? What industry/networking event will you attend? You may want to leverage an international job search coach or an “accountability partner” that has the same goal as you to do bi-weekly catch up.

Step 3: Identifying your niche

You can't be all things to all people, especially when looking for jobs abroad. You need a niche — a specific area in which you are a specialist/expert and can provide value. Identifying your niche will help you narrow down your potential target employers/clients and increase the chances of being approached by recruiters for your specific knowledge.

What to consider when identifying your niche

- **Consider asking for feedback:** How do others perceive your value in the market? What do people think you excel at? Consider asking for feedback from your manager, or coworkers. You may want to seek out a mentor or career coach to discuss your positioning.
- **Think about what problem you solve:** There is no “job” opening without a problem. Take some time to reflect on the issues you are solving in your day-to-day life. Ask professionals in your field what concerns they are facing. If

you are client-facing, identify patterns your clients usually ask you to solve. If you don't have any experience at all, consider asking for advice from experienced professionals. You can also start an interview project (newsletter, blog, podcast, etc...) on a specific topic you studied or volunteer in your targeted niche to understand problems and start thinking of solutions.

Step 4: Polishing your resume and personal branding

You need a solid branding to be able to stand out from the crowd. Start by researching the tweaks you need to adapt your resume to local requirements and update your LinkedIn profile. Remember to give it a bit of your personal touch.

What to consider when building your personal brand:

- **Create your own story:** Fact tell, but stories sell. Take some time to reflect about your career choices and the underlying storyline in your professional trajectory. Keep in mind that you are the only one to know about your story.
- **Highlight your results:** when crafting your resume or building your LinkedIn profile, focus on your results rather than your operational day-to-day tasks; think about your LinkedIn profile like a lead magnet. Give them enough results so they want to know more, via an appointment/an interview.

Once you've worked on your resume and updated your LinkedIn profile, you've essentially created a digital footprint for your international job search. You don't need to change your resume every week. If you land interviews, it means that it's working!

Step 5: Putting in the work to find jobs abroad

A job abroad is not found on its own. You need to set up systems, habits, and processes to ensure you're moving forward.

Build your network abroad: When looking for jobs abroad, a lot of people think they have no network. Start with the three most common networks: education (professors, alumni etc..), professional (past employers, industry groups etc..) and community (chamber of commerce, consulate etc..). It's essential to build a network in your targeted destination so you can be referred/gain knowledge on potential work opportunities. Start with reasonable and achievable weekly targets of people to contact and connect with.

Prepare for international interviews: Culture plays a major role in working culture in terms of feedback, persuasion, and leadership style. Ace your interviews in a foreign country, simply by researching in depth cultural norms and etiquette. Consider networking with immigrants and expats, practice common interview questions, your elevator pitch and visa sponsorship negotiation scenarios, paying attention to the way you tailor your presentation to fit the culture. You may consider leveraging coaches that have experience in your targeted destination to build interview prep confidence.

Job Search Strategy: Map out a list of potential employers/clients based on your niche and previous work experience. Consider direct/indirect competitors, suppliers, or other firms based on your aspirations. Limit the amount of companies you are targeting to begin with to dig into the outlook for hiring/growth. Leverage LinkedIn to identify expats, recruiters, or leaders to connect with. Iterate and repeat until you get meetings/information.

International job search mentoring: Seek guidance from professionals who have been in your shoes before. Finding a new job abroad is intimidating, especially if this is the first time you've considered living in a new country. There is no shame in asking for help, especially when you want to be successful.

My Access Abroad (MAB) is an online platform aiming to bridge the gap in accessing abroad. Through MAB, we hope you are inspired, motivated, and empowered to live where you want.