International Students

Students from other countries who are in the U.S. with non-immigrant (most commonly F-1 student) status must consider immigration regulations when making career plans. All questions regarding your legal employment eligibility should be directed to International Student and Scholar Services, located at 400 Student Services Building, 600 E. John Street, or online at http://www.isss.illinois.edu.

In the present economy, many employers are not able to hire international students for U.S.-based positions. Take all opportunities to meet recruiters on campus, however, as the recruiter may be your link to career opportunities outside the U.S. with this organization. Build your network, so that when a position opens, the company employees you have met will be in a position to recommend you for an interview.

More specific steps in an effective job search include:

- Identify companies that hire international students, and target these companies. Use sources on page 59, and the link to Going Global, on I-Link, which lists employers who have petitioned for H-1B immigration status on an employee’s behalf.
- Acknowledge that international students are typically not hired for certain job functions, and modify your target function while satisfying career interests. For example, sales and marketing positions may not be open to international students, but you might be considered for market analysis positions. Contacting people in your target companies, and building a network from which you receive current information, is the best way to obtain this information.
- Reach out to international and domestic alumni for career advice specific to your needs and skill set, and information about opportunities with their companies.
- Pursue job shadow, leadership program and unpaid opportunities that may lead to an internship.
- Leverage your background and previous professional experience.
- Leverage your personal, family and professional networks.
- Utilize job boards (see list on page 59) to identify opportunities with unfamiliar employers.
- Conduct your search for both U.S.-based and overseas positions simultaneously, so you don’t miss application deadlines.

And – take advantage of BCS mock interview opportunities, so you are prepared and confident when invited to interview!

For Freshmen and Sophomores: Job Shadow Program

WHAT IS THE JOB SHADOW PROGRAM?

The BCS Job Shadow Program for freshmen and sophomores is a one-day experience that occurs over winter break. Students shadow professionals, most of whom are alumni, to observe first-hand a typical day on the job. Students learn about careers in business and see how their classroom studies relate to the workplace.

In 2013-2014 College of Business students were matched with Job Shadow opportunities at 78 companies, including: 3M, AbbVie, Accenture, American Chartered Bank, Belvedere Trading, Caterpillar Inc., CNA Insurance Companies, ConAgra Foods, Inc., Coyote Logistics, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Healthscape Advisors, Horizon Hobby, Huron Consulting Group, John Deere, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, KPMG, Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, McDonald’s Corporation, Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation, Monsanto, Morningstar, Inc., Nestle USA, PricewaterhouseCoopers, The Private Bank and Trust Company, Quill (Staples), State Farm Insurance, Unilever, W.W. Grainger, Inc., Walgreens Corporation and WMS Gaming, Inc.

WHY DO A JOB SHADOW?

“The professionals emphasized that relationships with companies can never start too early, and students need to make an effort to form these relationships and networks as soon as possible, by starting with going on job shadows.” Sophomore, Class of 2016

“I was still deciding which major I wanted to pursue and I think this job shadow helped me realize that I do really like marketing, and I think that I am going to follow this path now.” Sophomore, Class of 2016
“I learned that I would seem to fit more into the tax side of accounting than the audit side, which before the job shadow I had no idea what side was a better fit for me.” *Freshman, Class of 2017*

“Specifically for me, the woman I shadowed gave me insightful and helpful interview tips, that gave me confidence about interviewing that I needed.” *Sophomore, Class of 2017*

“I got exposed to a real world case study. We had to work with a team and develop a solution for a real-life client issue. Then, we had to present in front of a panel of marketing judges. This was beneficial because we got critiqued on our plan and presentation skills.” *Sophomore, Class of 2016*

“This job shadow exposed me to an industry that I was unaware of before. It was helpful to be in an office setting and see what actual business people do during the day. It gave me a little bit of a clarification on a major as well.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“The main benefit was experiencing the work environment and learning more about what it’s like to be a new hire and adjusting to a firm’s expectations. It was also interesting to learn how to apply the knowledge you learn in school in the real world.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“It really opened up my eyes to what HR is, I didn’t know much going into my job shadow. And it actually made me think again about my career and educational goals.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“It clarified what I should be doing in college in order to best set myself up for a job that I will enjoy in the future.” *Sophomore, Class of 2015*

“The Job Shadow helped me to see that not knowing exactly what I want to do career-wise right now isn’t as big of a deal as I had thought it was before.” *Freshman, Class of 2013*

“The Job Shadow definitely opened my eyes to accounting and the services lines involved with field. In addition, it clarified my ambitions in the future.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“I realized that I do not want to [be in this career path]. Although this may not be the news I wanted to hear, this is definitely important to learn now rather than after I get my degree.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“I learned how corporate world differs from public accounting world. It was a wonderful experience, and I hope to have an internship in the future.” *Sophomore, Class of 2015*

“I benefitted from the Job Shadow by learning that I may be interested in commercial banking. I also got exposure to a new kind of corporate culture; one which was very attractive to me.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“I think I benefitted from the Job Shadow visit in that I was able to really see what it would be like to work in Corporate Finance. I know I want to work in Finance, but right now I am trying to figure out whether I want to be in Investments or Corporate. This helped a lot with that.” *Freshman, Class of 2016*

“I learned that I would definitely enjoy working in a company like this because you get to directly see your output and what you are creating.” *Freshman, Class of 2017*

In addition to investigating different career options, some students **landed a summer internship!**

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

To get involved in the Job Shadow Program students **must have an active I-Link account.** Come to BCS in 1033 BIF if you do not have an active I-Link account.

**“Career Exploration Opportunity” on I-Link**

Some employers offer opportunities similar to the BCS Job Shadow Program. These may be called “Leadership Program”, “Job Shadow”, or another title, and may be offered at any time of the year. Some are multi-day programs. Typically such programs are intended for specific target audiences. These opportunities are posted on the I-Link Job Board with the “Position Type” label “Career Exploration Opportunity.” If you are eligible and interested, follow instructions to submit your résumé for consideration. Remember to check I-Link for an invitation to schedule an interview, and check the email account listed on your résumé as the recruiter may contact you directly.