



CAREER SERVICES

International Student Testimonials

JOSEPH ABORAH '13

NOW WORKING AS A GL SPECIALIST AT UTI WORLDWIDE IN PORTLAND, OREGON

What were the biggest obstacles that you faced as an international student when looking for internships or jobs? How did you handle them?

The biggest obstacle I faced when I was looking for an internship or a job was that a lot of companies were hesitant to hire me—not because of my skills, but because I needed visa sponsoring down the line. Not only did they not want to spend the money and time to go through the process, they also did not want to invest in me with the possibility that I would not be able to be there long term.

The best way to handle this situation is to search for companies that have a history of sponsoring international students. Lundquist College Career has a list of all the companies that sponsored students in the previous year. That list came in very handy for me.

However, if you are set on working for a specific company that does not have a history of sponsoring students, try to sell your skills and experience as much as you can. You can prove to them how much of an asset you can be for the company. Also educate them on the process of sponsoring students so that they realize it is not as daunting of a process as it might seem.

How did you feel about your experience with the Lundquist College of Business or Lundquist College Career Services?

I loved my experience with Lundquist College Career Services. I worked with several people there during my time at UO, and they were all very helpful and very professional. As an international student, there were a lot of different things I simply did not know or was not used to when it came to applying for jobs and internships in the USA, but the people in the Career Services office helped me through all of it. Even after I graduated, they were still very helpful and guided me through my search.

What are some tips you would like to share with your international peers in terms of career search and planning?

NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK! Networking is one of the best things you can do as a student. You get to build business relationships that could go a long way in the future, and you are more likely to find out about certain positions before others do. People in the “real world” are more likely to take time out of their day to meet with you just because you are a student. So, make use of that advantage as much as you can while you still can.

Also, when searching for jobs and internships, try to expand your search beyond the obvious big name companies like Nike, Intel, and adidas. Starting out, you want to get your foot in the door somewhere and get as much real experience as you can. The experience you gain will help you more in the long run than the name of the company.



MARCELO BARROS, MBA '99

FORMER ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MBA CAREER COACHING AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

What were the biggest obstacles that you faced as an international student when looking for internships or jobs? How did you handle them?

When I graduated in 1999 with my MBA from the Lundquist College of Business, the biggest obstacle I faced was lack of work experience and finding companies that were willing to sponsor. To overcome my lack of work experience, I tried to get engaged with as many campus activities as possible. I also remember working full-time every summer during my years as an undergraduate. By the time I was a senior I had a good amount of “work experience” on my resume that clearly indicated I was very involved in school. I think recruiters liked that. As far as finding firms that sponsored, I tried to focus on big name global firms in telecommunications, which was the sector I was targeting. Most of them sponsored.

What have been the biggest challenges that you face as an international employee at workplace? How did you handle them?

I have worked full-time for about 15 years, and I am still not as assertive as most of my U.S. managers would have liked me to be. Sometimes I can be too quiet in meetings for U.S. standards. The problem with this behavior is that sometimes some people incorrectly assume I am not engaged or sometimes they may think I am unsure of myself. Sometimes they may think I am not smart. The way I have dealt with this situation is by providing my management team with ongoing updates about my projects via email and by having frequent meetings with them. I prefer to talk with people one-on-one. I schedule meetings with my team members often to share my ideas with them, so they know I am engaged and interested in the work that is going on.

What were some career assistance sources or tools that you used for your internship or full-time job search when you were in college?

I spent a lot of time at Lundquist College of Business Career Services office learning everything I could about the job search process. I found one-on-one career coaching very valuable.

What are some tips you would like to share with your international peers in terms of career search and planning?

I encourage international students to read my book *The International Advantage. Get Noticed. Get Hired!* This book provides a variety of methodologies to help international students achieve their job search goals.

Last but not least, don't be afraid to ask for help. When you are genuine and open about your challenges, fears, and goals, most people really try to provide a helping hand that can be the difference between getting a job or not. When you don't interact with people or spend too much time with international students from your own country, then you miss out on the opportunity to grow, challenge yourself, and maybe find a terrific networking contact—or even a job.



JING LI '16

BUSINESS UNDERGRADUATE AND ECONOMICS HONOR STUDENT, INTERNED WITH PWC IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA IN SUMMER 2015.

What were the biggest obstacles that you faced as an international student when looking for internships or jobs? How did you handle them?

As an international student, you will inevitably run into an issue of H1B visa, and there are not too many employers who are willing to sponsor your visa. However, there are some companies, such as PwC, that are welcoming to international students and view their diverse background as assets instead of liabilities.

In order to be favored by such a company, an international student should have something that they can bring to the table. First, a decent GPA is very important. I have seen many students who are motivated and hard working, but they failed merely because they didn't meet the minimum GPA requirement. Second, recruiters consistently look for well-rounded candidates who possess both technical skills and soft skills. In terms of soft skills, an international student should be engaged on campus in order to gain necessary interpersonal skills. Lastly, English is very important, and communication skills are very desired by all companies.

What have been the biggest challenges that you face as an international employee at workplace? How did you handle them?

With my experience with PwC in San Jose, I do not think there is anything that is very difficult for international students. Even though an international student has a disadvantage of communication skills compared, you can offset this by being more proactive and motivated. If there is anything that I would recommend international students do, I would say to find a place that celebrates diversity and values your identity.

What were some career assistance sources or tools that you used for your internship or full-time job search when you were in college?

When I was looking for an internship, DuckConnect was obviously very helpful and important. That would be the first place to check out for international students looking for a job. Also, international students should reach out to a career advisor asking for advice.

How did you feel about your experience with the Lundquist College of Business or Lundquist College Career Services?

Overall, it was such a great experience during the last few months when I was in the hunt for my internship. The advisors are very helpful, and I think international students should take full advantage of that. For example, you can do mock interviews with advisors and also request them to help you with your interview preparation. In addition, a perfect resume is mandatory and important. So, review and revise your resume with a career advisor.

What are some tips you would like to share with your international peers in terms of career search and planning?

Sometimes it will take a while before an international student can find his or her dream position. However, as long as you keep going, you will make your dream come true. Hard work can make dreams come true.



WENYING CAI, MACTG '16

RECEIVED A FULL-TIME OFFER FROM PWC STARTING IN 2016

What were the biggest obstacles that you faced as an international student when looking for internships or jobs? How did you handle them?

As an international student, the language and the culture are the biggest obstacles I faced during my job search process. I got a lot of help from the career advisors about how to get used to the American culture. Interview preparation and mock interview services in the Lundquist College Career Services office are awesome. My first interview failed, and my interviewer suggested that I gain more interview experience. After several mock interviews with the advisors, I felt much more familiar with their evaluation and my strengths and weaknesses. They offered me great suggestions, and I prepared several examples and applied them to different questions. This was really helpful, and I found that I can answer almost all the questions even if it is my first time to hear these questions. The advisors helped me gain more information about American culture and helped me relax during an after-interview social lunch.

How did you feel about your experience with the Lundquist College of Business or Lundquist College Career Services?

I talked with Dr. Robin Clement, the director of MAcc program, and she recommended the Lundquist College Career Services office. They are always patient, friendly and helpful. With their help, I started from being denied in the first round to getting a full-time job offer from PwC successfully. I received so much great advice from my advisors. They provided experienced and systematic suggestions for networking and job search strategies. They helped me summarize the mistakes I made during my first interview, and they helped me realize my strengths in order to build my personal brand. They also provided me with some useful career websites, such as LinkedIn and Glassdoor. They helped me through my internship interview with Amazon, and I got into the final round. After that, my advisors gave me many valuable suggestions when I was interviewing with PwC, including the resume, interview preparation, mock interview, and follow-ups after the interview. They not only answered all my questions, but also give me advice based on their own experiences.

