Establishing a professional career abroad is highly rewarding but can be competitive. A long-term international job is often a career goal that requires good planning. Included below are some considerations, resources, and links.

Secure a Position in the US with an International Company, then ask to Transfer
Many major corporations and organizations have offices in multiple countries. One way to begin an international career is to start in your home country working for a multinational organization, and then transfer to an overseas branch. To do this, you will need to identify industries and/or companies/organizations you are interested in. Once on board, tell your supervisor your long-term goals and do your job well.

Apply Directly to a Job Overseas
A more straightforward approach is to find jobs listed overseas and apply to them directly. You may find that many of these jobs are mid-level or senior positions that require experience and technical skills. There may not be many immediately available for a recent college graduate, but you can find paths and possibilities in the research. See Going Global for an example of an international job board.

Get International Experience
Employers will want to know that you can succeed and be comfortable in an international environment. Any experience you can obtain abroad will make your application more persuasive. Participate in a study abroad program, do community or volunteer work overseas, or work abroad short term. Learn at least one other language, especially one related to your target country.

Resources and Links

HFA Career Center
HFA career advisors can help you identify career goals, find companies and organizations with international offices, and develop core career skills. You can make an appointment with a career advisor or use other resources.

Transitions Abroad
Transitions Abroad publishes articles and guides for finding and preparing for work overseas. The featured articles for international careers are a good read.

Federal Jobs Overseas
There are a number of Federal agencies that routinely employ people overseas. While the list is long, some of the more notable departments are the Departments of State/Agriculture/Commerce/Defense/Navy/Air Force/Army. Find jobs either at USAJOBS.gov (note there is a search term ‘Students and Recent Graduates’), or go to the individual departmental websites to learn more.

International Organizations
International Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) include humanitarian, development, and advocacy organizations. Idealist can be searched for overseas jobs or organizations by using the ‘location’ search term.

U.S. Agency for International Development
Yet another Federal agency, USAID offers employment opportunities in civil service and international development across the globe. USAID Internships offers two programs for entry-level professionals: The International Development Intern program and the Recent Graduates program. Both serve as potential starting points for international careers.

Teaching Internationally
Professional K-12 teachers can find work at Department of State schools, Department of Defense schools, international baccalaureate schools, and independent schools across the world. See Office of Overseas Schools, Department of Defense Education Activity, International Schools Services, or the European Council of International Schools for more information.

United Nations Job Boards
The United Nations Job Boards posts jobs and internships for a wide variety of jobs and locations. This is a good resource to not only find jobs, but also to get a sense of what career paths exists for international work. The International Organization Employment Information website offers an overview of the types of jobs and programs the UN and other international organizations have.