

Short-Term Opportunities Abroad

If you're not interested or ready to make a long-term commitment to international employment, but would still like to spend a year or two (or less) abroad, consider short-term employment.

AU PAIR POSITIONS

"Au pair" is essentially a fancy name for babysitter. If you have babysitting experience and enjoy working with children this can be an ideal way to live inexpensively in a foreign country and experience the culture. Au pair positions give you an opportunity to live in a foreign location with free room & board and spending money. Au pair positions tend to be predominantly filled by women. Men are occasionally hired, particularly when the children are male, but not usually. Most positions involve working about 30 hours a week (5 hours a day/ 6 days a week) and focus on child care. Au pairs are sometimes asked to do light housework, cooking or other duties. Read any agreement carefully before you sign it. Make sure you know what is expected of you including the housing arrangements you will receive. You must be reliable, enjoy children, patient and creative.

The International Au Pair Association (www.iapa.org/) - An association of agencies involved in locating and placing au pairs worldwide. This website allows you to research au pair agencies in 44 countries.

WORK CAMPS

Work Camps offer you an opportunity to work for up to four weeks in an international location, supporting volunteer projects throughout the world. They tend to pay only room and board, but provide a wealth of opportunities and locations. Apply by March when the majority of the opportunities are listed; most positions are filled by the end of June.

Service Civil International (<http://www.sci-ivs.org/new/>) is a worldwide voluntary service organization and peace movement. International workcamps are central to SCI's work and take a variety of forms. Every year about 5000 volunteers participate in workcamps in over 80 countries.

Volunteers for Peace (<http://www.vfp.org/>) is a non-profit membership organization that offers opportunities to volunteer abroad in over 3000 volunteer projects in more than 100 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and Central, South and North America.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK

Fieldwork opportunities seldom pay at the entry-level, in fact, you might be asked to pay a fee or enroll in a class to participate. But if your goal is to gain experience this can be a great opportunity.

Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities -
Archaeological Institute of America
(<http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10016>)

Archaeology Fieldwork
(<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/>)

CRUISE LINE WORK

Cruises combine great food, terrific entertainment, and incredible travel with excellent accommodations, but the pay is minimal for hard and constant work twenty-four hours a day. Most Cruise ships are operated out of the Caribbean, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Indonesia, Philippines, and Asia. You must be eager to work with multinational passengers and employees. Most ship jobs are held by employees from third world and Southern European countries. Americans tend to participate in the entertainment, physical fitness, and the sports aspects of job opportunities, and tend to be temporary or transition jobs for the majority who typically work 3-5 years for a cruise line. The constant travel and separation from families can be a difficult strain.

Generally, cruise ships have three levels of employment. Americans generally do not work as **crew** (wait persons; cooks, cleaners, dishwashers). Crew members live in small quarters, eat different food and are generally barred from dealing with passengers. Most Americans will find employment as **staff**. Staff opportunities include: children's counselors, actors, performers, casino personnel, fitness directors, diving instructors, photographers, gift shop sales staff, etc. **Officers** are always from the country in which the ship is registered, therefore US citizens can only be officers on American ships, and they usually have Coast Guard or Navy training.

Cruise Ship Jobs (<http://www.cruiseshipjob.com/>)

Ship Jobs (<http://www.shipjobs.com/>)

TOUR GUIDES

Tour guides must interact with groups of people, keeping them focused, entertained, and informed. Successful travel guides will also have a great deal of leadership ability. Above all, they must be able to plan and organize trips and outings so that they happen seamlessly.

While a lot of tour guides will operate in places they know well, those with unique skill sets such as wilderness first aid training or experience leading nature expeditions may be able to find seasonal work in areas where these skills are in demand.

Some tour guides work on cruise ships or for tourism companies, private resorts or attractions, or may specialize in ecotourism, lead biking tours, or even work for the government.

JobMonkey Tour Guide Jobs
(<http://tourguidejobs.jobamatic.com/a/jobs/find-jobs>)

CLUB MED

Club Med (<http://www.clubmedjobs.com/>) is not an ordinary vacation spot but a community that provides an environment that appeals to all ages, genders, and cultures. It creates a relaxing and fun atmosphere for vacationers. The Club Med community is set up as a village and is located in numerous spots all over the world. Knowledge of French and Spanish is particularly valued.

There are over 90 professions available in the Club Med villages and Club Med employs about 15000 people. Potential fields of employment include: Tour Guides, Entertainment, Child Supervision, Excursions, Corporate Office, Hotel Services, Catering, Health/Well-being, Housekeeping/Maintenance, Sales, Water and land sports. The first locations entry-level employees are sent to include Colorado, Florida, the Caribbean, Mexico, Tahiti, and the Bahamas. Following the initial 6-month employment, you can request an international assignment.

At your interview emphasize that you want to work with people, not that you want to travel. Highlight your outgoing nature, your adventuresome personality. Be persistent. Let them know you'll be interested any time a vacancy occurs.

AGRICULTURAL POSITIONS

Agriventure (<http://www.agriventure.com/>) Unique opportunity for individuals between 18 and 30 to travel and work in 12 different countries. For a fee, they handle your tickets, work permits and insurance. You stay with host families. Work can include Agriculture - on a livestock and/or cropping enterprise; Horticulture - in an orchard, market garden or greenhouse; Home Management - working in and around the home; or a mix of the above.

Harvest Trail (<http://jobsearch.gov.au/HarvestTrail>). Lists seasonal jobs in various parts of Australia. You will need to do the work of obtaining a visa and transportation.

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (<http://www.wwoof.org/>). Just what it says.

INTERNSHIPS

There are hundreds of opportunities for internships abroad. Internships provide a great experience without any commitment beyond the initial agreed-upon time. Many are connected directly to study abroad programs which require you to enroll and pay tuition and fees. The work is usually "voluntary" and it is harder to find a paid internship abroad. Research the organizations and countries in which you'd like to do your internship. Send a cover letter and resume and explain carefully the type of experience you are seeking. (Your chances will be better if you don't expect to be paid.) Remember that terms like "internship" may not mean the same in other countries. Will you need support such as assistance with finding a place to live? Get the terms of the internship in writing if possible.

Transitions Abroad (<http://transitionsabroad.com/>) For over 30 years, the single most useful and comprehensive resource—now THE free portal—for Work Abroad, Study Abroad, Cultural Travel Overseas, and International Living.

Idealist.org (www.idealist.org) Provides listing of over 2400 internships in 165 countries.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering opportunities are as varied as the individuals who pursue them. They can be anywhere in the world, lasting from 1 day to many years, requiring no skills to highly professional skills, may provide room & board or other benefits, and may require you to pay a fee for the privilege of volunteering.

As you think about volunteering on an international level, consider where you want to live, what you would like to do, the type of people you want to work with, the type of organization you'd like to volunteer for, the "cause" or issue which concerns you, how much time you want to spend, and your financial situation. There are literally thousands of agencies and organizations through which you can volunteer from local churches helping new residents learn English to governmental agencies like the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>) is the number one "employer" of Americans working abroad is the Peace Corps which offers two year experiences throughout the world. Individuals with health, agricultural, and business experience and knowledge are particularly sought. The Peace Corps can be a stepping-stone to a career in international development or state department work.

Youth for Understanding (<http://www.yfu.org/>) offers an international exchange program.

Cross-Cultural Solutions (<http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/>) provides short and long-term volunteer opportunities for humanitarian aid in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Idealist.org (<http://www.idealist.org/>) has over 18,000 volunteer listings online.

United Nations Volunteers Programme (<http://www.unv.org/>) is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Selected info from Dickinson College Career Center

IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH...

Need some other ideas for different kinds of experiences?

Check out <http://www.jobmonkey.com/>