

Career Connections

International Education

Do you like to travel? Does studying foreign cultures intrigue you? Are you always ready to sample exotic foods? Maybe you want to put into practice all those Spanish or French classes you've been taking, or you want to learn more about the home countries of some of your international friends. If you like to meet new people, try new things, learn about the world, and help people understand difference, then you are probably a very good candidate for a career in International Education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

This booklet will cover three of the most popular positions in International Education: International Student Admissions Counselor, Study Abroad Advisor, and International Student Immigration Advisor. Most people in the field of International Education work for colleges and universities; however, as the world is becoming increasingly globalized, more people are practicing International Education at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. There are also many people who work abroad in this field either as advisors for the Fulbright program or as overseas educational advisors in private centers near U.S. embassies and consulates. The field of International Education also includes consultants, lobbyists, exchange association staff workers, and officials working for the U.S. Department of State.

Positions in International Education, though seemingly broad in nature, all require similar skills and interests. Students who have an interest in world politics, economics, religions, and societies coupled with a desire to assist people in understanding other cultures and customs are often well-suited for jobs in International Education. Also, it is becoming increasingly important for International Educators to have developed strong skills in at least one foreign language and to have spent considerable time living and studying or working abroad immersed in another culture. Thus, students of the liberal arts are particularly well-prepared for work in this field. The aim of this Career Connections program is to help students decide if International Education is a good match for their personalities and goals in life based on experiences they gain from coursework at Hanover College, internships, campus jobs, job shadowing, and involvement in relevant student organizations.

What is it that most International Educators do? Well, there is a range of tasks depending on job type, including: immigration and financial advising; counseling on personal problems stemming from problems assimilating into a new culture; disseminating information either on immigration regulations, admissions procedures, or study abroad applications; planning information sessions for either large or small groups of people; research; advocating for students' interests; creating institutional policies; and setting up exchanges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exploring Options

Begin in the Career Center by completing several survey instruments to better understand your interests, skills, and values. Start with tools such as the Campbell Interest and Skill Survey and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Research the professional associations affiliated with International Education including NAFSA: Association for International Educators (www.nafsa.org) and the groups within NAFSA such as CAFSS, SECUSSA, ADSEC, COMSEC, and OSEAS. Check out the websites of institutions that offer jobs in the area of International Education:

- The Institute of International Education (www.iie.org/)
- The Fulbright Commission (www.iie.org/TemplateFulbright.cfm?section=Fulbright1)
- The U.S. Department of State (www.state.gov/employment/)
- The Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Services, a branch of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.immigration.gov/graphics/workfor/index.htm).

Keeping up on world events is critical to keeping up in International Education. You should like reading about what's going on in the world on a daily basis. The newspapers that you read should come from a variety of countries offering more than one viewpoint. Try these English-language websites from other countries, but continue to look for others that you like as well:

- Japan Today (www.crisscross.com/jp/)
- BBC World News (www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml)
- The Kathmandu Post (www.kantipuronline.com/ktmpost.php)
- O Estadão de São Paulo (www.estadao.com.br)
- CNN International (<http://edition.cnn.com/WORLD/>)
- Africa Online (www.africaonline.com/site/)
- The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com/)
- China Daily (www1.chinadaily.com.cn/en/home/index.html)
- The Guardian (www.guardian.co.uk/)

By their junior and senior year, participants should begin narrowing down the positions in International Education that most interest them and identify professionals with whom they can conduct information interviews about their occupations. Many of these professionals could come from the Hanover College alumni database and from connections made through attendance at NAFSA or other professional organizations' conferences. Actively seek opportunities to observe these professionals in their daily routine as well as when they conduct certain special annual events.

Dig into books that are meant to be read by new professionals to the field such as Gary Althen's *The Handbook of Foreign Student Advising* or the Intercultural Press's *Studying Abroad/Learning Abroad*. You can find a number of interesting reads in the Haq Center and Career Center libraries, so stop by and browse some. Here are a couple other great places to find good books for the International Educators: Intercultural Press (<http://interculturalpress.com/shop/index.html>) and NAFSA's publications (www.nafsa.org/publication.sec). Finally, consider attending a one- or two-day session especially catered to professionals in the field. Find information on these sessions under the heading "Structured Training & Continued Education."

Academics

A career in International Education involves many different activities and a knowledge base in several areas, so the list of courses that could hold relevance for the field is long. Of course, the study of any modern language is very useful for this field, and most employers would like for you to fluently speak at least one language other than English. Some people who work in International Education were international studies majors because that major does examine the world through the lens of several different disciplines.

Please note that a substantial study abroad experience is necessary to secure a position in International Education, so you need to begin thinking about taking both Spring Term courses abroad and a semester-long course abroad while you are at Hanover. Plan to spend a semester abroad during your junior year at a location that fits squarely into your field of study and your realm of language skills. Do not be intimidated, and don't underestimate your language skills. If you've been taking Spanish classes here at Hanover and succeeding in them, then you should aim to study abroad in Spain or Mexico, not Australia. Employers in International Education are looking for people with strong skills in a language besides their native tongue, and this is usually a requirement for a position in this field. Also, employers are increasingly hiring applicants who have skills in languages such as Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Japanese since a majority of students who come to study in the United States now are from Asia or Southeast Asia.

Here are some classes to consider taking to better prepare yourself for a position in International Education (remember, you do not need to take all of these courses! You can choose from these and others that meet your own needs and interests. These are only some suggestions offered by the Haq Center staff, and you will probably find others that we have left out which fit into your area of interest):

Art History 111: History of Eastern Art

Communication 328: Cross-Cultural Communication

Communication 340: Global Communication Processes

Economics 333: International Trade & Finance

Economics 337: Economic Development

Business 321: Basic Law

Business 339: International Business

English 210 & 211: Africa & the Americas I & II

English 350: Florence in the Age of Dante & Petrarch

Great Works 123: Eurasia

Any advanced courses in European, Asian, Latin American, or World History

Interdisciplinary 051: Cultural Events

Philosophy 221: Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy 322: Classical Chinese Philosophy

Political Science 211: Politics & Society in Contemporary Africa

Political Science 212: American Foreign Policy

Any 200-level Political Science class that examines the Middle East, Europe, or Asia

Political Science 231: World Politics

Political Science 335: International Political Economy

Psychology 332: Counseling & Psychotherapy

Sociology 318: Race & Ethnic Relations

Sociology 335: Sociology of Religion

Anthropology 221: World Ethnographies

Any 200- or 300-level Anthropology course that focuses on religion or the people & cultures of a specific region

Please keep in mind that a Master's degree is often preferred for entry-level job candidates in the field of International Education. An academic Master's degree (in subjects such as history, political science, or philosophy) is often favorable in the eyes of faculty members at a small liberal arts college, while a Master's degree in either international or intercultural education from Lesley University or Vermont's School of International Training might be more attractive to a larger office that demands practical and theoretical skills specific only to this field.

Three of the top schools that offer Master's degrees in International Education are Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland Oregon, and the School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Lesley offers a Master's degree called a Master's of Art in Intercultural Education, which has six specific areas of concentration. To learn more, please go to the website listed below. ICI offers an internship program and a Master's of Arts in Intercultural Relations, and the School for International Training offers a Master's degree in International Education. Remember, there are other schools in the U.S. and abroad that offer similar Master's degrees; I have simply listed the schools with which I have the most familiarity. www.lesley.edu/offcampus/term/nmagss_intercultural.html
www.intercultural.org/mair.html
www.sit.edu/graduate/maie/index.html

Finally, if your long-term goal is to become the Director of a college or university's international office, then you will want to consider pursuing a Ph.D. or a J.D. Often the heads of large international offices have studied political science, world economics, higher education administration, foreign languages, or law.

Co-Curricular Activities

On-Campus Activities

Joining any club that recognizes and celebrates world languages, religions, or cultures would be helpful on many levels in the field of International Education, especially when it comes to relating to the students you are advising. During the school year, observe different aspects of international events on campus. Attend the events planned by the Haq Center during International Education Week in November. Offer to help the International Club with its annual Banquet in March. Go listen to the speakers that the Department of Modern Languages sponsors and learn how Student Programming Board organizes a visit from a band that plays international music.

All these experiences will better help you see what goes into bringing quality educational programs to a specific audience. In terms of learning about counseling, apply to be an I-Pal to the incoming international students in the fall. Try to find a job as a Student Resource Coordinator for the Haq Center. Consider getting involved with International Club, the Hawaii Club, and/or Positive Image. If you think that you would like to be an international student advisor, you could volunteer to help the Assistant Director of the Haq Center with New International Student Orientation.

Off-Campus Activities

In the field of International Education, it is a good idea to have some sort of specialized training in conjunction with a Master's degree to best qualify for the positions that most Hanover College students would seek.

NAFSA: Association for International Educators offers many Professional Development Programs (PDPs) all year long in various regions of the U.S. These *practical* one- to two-day long sessions are information-packed and intense. Session attendees can choose from a wide variety of topics such as "Graduate Admissions," "F-1 Regulations: The Second Step," and "Foundations of International Education: Education Abroad Advising." You will come away from the PDP with a good understanding of the particular topic that you chose. Since there are many strong International Educators in the state of Indiana, several PDPs are offered in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio each year. Once you feel that you know in which area you would like to practice, it is *strongly* recommended that you attend the PDP best suited to your interests and your current understanding of the field. You can see which PDPs NAFSA will offer in the near future by going to this site:

www.nafsa.org/content/ProfessionalandEducationalResources/training/upcomingtraining.htm

NAFSA's PDPs offer a new professional a practical introduction to the field, but many people also have an interest in the *theory* behind International Education, and there are short programs that teach about theories as well. One of the most highly-esteemed programs of intercultural theory is the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication (SIIC) in Portland Oregon. SIIC's sessions range from 2-4 days to nearly a month in length. Again, you can choose from a variety of topics such as "Foundations of Diversity Training," "Intercultural Conflict Management," and "Understanding Global and Cross-Border Organizations." For more information, see www.intercultural.org/siic/siic.html.

Work Experience

On-Campus Jobs

Haq Center Student Resource Coordinator: spend time each week helping the Haq Center staff members meet the needs of international students and students wishing to study abroad. This position will help develop organizational skills and basic counseling skills.

Haq Center International Pal (or I-Pal): spend a week sharing a new experience with a new international student. I-Pals will see firsthand what foreigners must go through to begin functioning successfully in the U.S. I-Pals develop skills in basic counseling and problem-solving.

Student Worker for International Student Recruiter: learn to identify which applicants are a good fit for a Hanover College education based on their transcripts, their essays, and other application materials; practice diplomacy skills through constant e-mailing to prospective students.

Resident Assistant (or R.A.): develop and conduct hall functions and programs, provide support to residents, conduct sessions on diversity, participate in the on-call duty rotation schedule in the living unit.

Peer Advisor (or P.A.): lead a group of new students throughout fall term, design and conduct programs to fulfill the 10 components of the orientation program and the P.A. module.

Tutor for the Department of Modern Languages: strengthen your language skills while helping others with theirs, experience firsthand how difficult it can be for people to express themselves effectively in a foreign language, practice patience and teaching skills.

Related Summer Jobs

During the summers, take some time to visit the Admissions, International Programs, and International Student and Scholar Offices at colleges and universities near you. Ask yourself whether or not you would like to remain in an academic environment based on visits to both small and large schools and on your understanding of your own personality. If you live in or near a large city, there is most likely an international center in town that works to educate people on global issues and plans festivals throughout the year to celebrate cultural diversity. Spend some time at this center, either shadowing someone whose job you think is interesting or interning to see how the center runs. If you get a chance to visit a foreign country, stop by the U.S. embassy or consulate in that country and see if you can arrange to meet with a couple of people who work there to see if that would interest you. Talk to people who work at Hanover or alumni who received a Fulbright grant and ask them about their experiences. Would you like to administer such programs?

As mentioned earlier, you will want to look at working in a variety of places before you reach your senior year so that you will have a good idea as to which area of International Education you would like to work in. Try to get a job working in one of the offices that deals with international matters at the college or university that is located near your hometown or with which you have some other affiliation. It is imperative in the field of International Education that you have some previous work experience and strong professional connections to locate a good job, especially if you do not possess a Master's degree. If you work on developing such relationships while in college, you will have a better time finding the position you seek.

Internships

Again, you will want to look at working either for local organizations that work to internationalize the community or for colleges and universities with which you have some connection. If you live in Indianapolis, for example, and would like to be a study abroad advisor, see if you can get a summer internship with Butler's Institute for Study Abroad. If, however, you would like to be an international student recruiter, see if you can work in the Office of Admissions at the University of Indianapolis. Haq Center staff members may even be able to personally connect you to these offices through close ties to colleagues, so you will be able to get a foot in the door.

Consider interning with the Washington (D.C.) Center or Philadelphia Center. In either of these internship programs through Hanover you will learn a lot of practical time management and multitasking skills, and there's a lot that you could be doing. For instance, in Philadelphia you could be a legal intern for an immigration law firm, help coordinate seminars that the French-American Chamber of Commerce offers, work for the International Visitors Council of Philadelphia, or do research for either Wharton Economic Forecasting or the U.S.-Japan Institute. If you intern in Washington, D.C. you could gain experience in International Education if you find a position with the Institute of International Education, the National Council for International Visitors, the Alliance for International Education and Cultural Exchange, or NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Remember that the list you see here is by no means exhaustive—there are a great number of other opportunities available to you in both Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

Finally, if you'd like to find an internship a little further from home, you can look into working with groups in large American cities such as the Global Education Partnership which provides access to educational resources that increase the capacity of young people to become employable and self-reliant in today's global marketplace (www.geponline.org/). If you'd like to participate in a semester-long program or complete a summer internship, see David Harden in the Career Center to make it happen.

Good luck pursuing your career in International Education!

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International Education Career Connections Advisor

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