Working & Studying Abroad
Many students choose to work abroad throughout their studies or after graduation. Some students may also choose to undertake further study in another country, or study abroad as part of their degree programme. Working and studying abroad can enhance your employability, helping you to develop your skills whilst experiencing other cultures and perspectives.

**Working Abroad**

**Getting Started**

Before starting your research, you should take some time to examine your motives. Are you simply looking for vacation work or are you looking for a more permanent career? Are you looking to go abroad as part of a gap year/ placement /time out? What are you hoping to gain from the experience?

The answers to these questions will help to determine your strategy – where you look for jobs, who to target, how you go about making applications etc.

**Do your research**

The process of arranging work abroad can be time consuming, it is essential that you do your research and plan ahead. As well as understanding how to find opportunities and the application process, you will also need to think about practical issues such as visas, income and accommodation.

- **Prospects.ac.uk** [prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad](prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad)
  provides detailed profiles on over 20 countries, with information on visas, local labour market, finding job vacancies, work experience and study.
- **TargetJobs** [targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad](targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad)
  Gives country specific information on working and living abroad including language requirements, job hunting tips, application methods and visa basics on over 20 countries.

**Important Sources of Information**

- Always check the Foreign Office website before making any decisions about travelling or accepting a position abroad. The site covers a range of issues including insurance, passports, visas, health precautions and advice on the political situation of around 200 countries. [www.fco.gov.uk](www.fco.gov.uk)
- For travel health information visit [https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home](https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home)
Finding Opportunities

There are numerous job boards and vacancy sources that provide information about overseas opportunities. The following are just a few of the more specialist sites that are available for students and graduates.

Overseas internships and exchange programmes
The following schemes offer UK students the chance to gain work experience abroad:

- **AIESEC** (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) offers international internships from 6 weeks to 18 months for students and recent graduates. [https://www.aiesec.co.uk/](https://www.aiesec.co.uk/)
- **IAESTE** (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) provides science, engineering and applied arts undergraduates with paid relevant work experience abroad. [https://iaeste.org/](https://iaeste.org/)
- **Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)** helps students find work in the USA for a fixed time, after which students are required to return. [https://www.ciee.org/](https://www.ciee.org/)

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

TEFL is a popular way to gain experience working abroad. Teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) involves teaching adults and children whose first or main language is not English. Prospects.ac.uk provides detailed information on TEFL work here: [prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/english-as-a-foreign-language-teacher](https://prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/english-as-a-foreign-language-teacher)

There are a wide range of courses available in TEFL, but the two which offer the best chance of finding work and which are accepted overseas as evidence of thorough and rigorous initial training are:

- **Cambridge CELTA** (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) [cambridgeesol.org/teaching](https://cambridgeesol.org/teaching)
- **Trinity Cert ESOL** (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) [trinitycollege.co.uk](https://www.trinitycollege.co.uk)

A useful website which can give advice on choosing the right TEFL course (giving locations, times and cost) as well as help in finding employment is [cactustefl.com](http://cactustefl.com)

For detailed information read our ‘Teaching English as a Foreign Language’ guide: [mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides](https://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides).

Choosing Gap Year/ Travel/ Voluntary Organisations

Overseas projects are often based in the developing world, working with local communities tackling issues around health, social care, education & conservation. Some organisations will pay you to go, others will not cost you much, but some are expensive.

Ensure you fully understand the costs involved and review the employer before accepting a position or making any payments. Seek advice from those who know more about the organisation and speak to your Careers Service if you are unsure. Many reputable organisations will give you the opportunity to contact a previous participant who will be able to give you first-hand information of their experiences of working with the organisation.
• **Prospects.ac.uk** provides detailed information on how to plan and make the most of a gap year: [prospects.ac.uk/gap_year.htm](prospects.ac.uk/gap_year.htm)

• Whether you are looking to learn a new language, explore new countries or gain experience abroad, **The Gap Year Guide Book** offers advice, tips, information and reference tools to help you plan your gap year: [gap-year.com](gap-year.com)

• Find adventure tours, gap year travel, career breaks and volunteer projects [statravel.co.uk](statravel.co.uk)

• Browse the programmes, countries and organisations that interest you and access the pictures and video from those who have gone before: [yearoutgroup.org](yearoutgroup.org)

• Discover volunteering opportunities from organisations across the world: [step-together.org.uk](step-together.org.uk)

**Opportunities in Europe**

• [europa.eu](europa.eu) Provides information on living, working and studying in the EU. Includes links to Europe Direct, a free phone and email service to answer your questions about the EU.

• [eurograduate.com](eurograduate.com) Includes graduate opportunities across Europe by sector, occupation and country, as well as postgraduate study options.

• [overseasjobs.com](overseasjobs.com) A jobs database searchable by keyword or location (including Europe).

• [eurojobs.com](eurojobs.com) Opportunities across Europe.

**Opportunities in USA**

Do spend time researching the options and the practical issues of working in the USA, including the complex visa requirements.

Some well-established programmes for temporary work, including summer camps are:

• [campamerica.co.uk](campamerica.co.uk)

• [http://americansummers.com/](http://americansummers.com/)

• [aupairamerica.co.uk](aupairamerica.co.uk)

• [bunac.org.uk](bunac.org.uk)

• [ccusa.co.uk](ccusa.co.uk)

**Opportunities in the ‘rest of the world’**

Databases and specialist advice for finding opportunities world-wide:

• [mmu.higheredtalent.org](mmu.higheredtalent.org)

• [prospects.ac.uk/graduate_job_search.htm](prospects.ac.uk/graduate_job_search.htm)

• [overseasjobs.com](overseasjobs.com)

• [iinternship.com](iinternship.com)

• [internoptions.co.uk](internoptions.co.uk)

Why not use the MMyou Learning Bite to find out if working abroad is something you are keen to pursue.

Search for ‘Considerations for an international move’
Resources for International Students
GradLink UK provides career information for international students and graduates. GradLink currently includes specific sections for China, South-East Asia (ASEAN), Africa, India, Bangladesh and Canada and the GULF with further country sections to be added soon.
gradlinkASEAN.com
gradlinkuk.com/canada.php gradlinkuk.com/china.php
gradlinkuk.com/india.php gradlinkuk.com/south-asia.php
gradlinkGULF.com

Study Abroad

Study Abroad as part of your degree
Many courses at Manchester Metropolitan University offer an option to study abroad for three, six or ten months, at partner universities in countries including Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, the USA, China, Malaysia, Canada and over 20 countries across Europe. There are also summer exchange opportunities open to students of any discipline.

Opportunities to study abroad are competitive. You will need to apply for a place and, to be eligible to go, you must have successfully completed your first year of study, meet all academic requirements set by your department and have the support of your academic department. For more information, visit the Exchange drop-in every Wednesday from 1pm – 3pm, during term time in the Business School Student Hub.

Postgraduate Study Abroad
If you are considering postgraduate study overseas, you need to start your research early. The types of postgraduate courses on offer will differ in each country, as well as the application process, funding options and visas.

- prospects.ac.uk/studying_abroad.htm A useful introduction to issues you need to consider and links to country specific study information.
- targetcourses.co.uk/advice/studying-abroad Find information on qualification names, language requirements, exchange programme options, fees and international scholarships, how to apply for postgraduate study abroad, and study visa basics
- studyoverseas.com contains a useful course and college search section.

How do you find the right course?
You can research your options and identify institutions and courses using the following resources:

- Specialist careers fairs, which take place at locations around the UK, such as the TARGETpostgrad Study and Funding Fairs: targetpostgrad.com/fairs-and-open-days
- Fulbright Commission institutions and courses in the USA: fullbright.org.uk
- Study Options – for Australia and New Zealand: studyoptions.com
- Individual institution websites.
Consider the qualification requirements

You'll need to check whether your academic qualifications are acceptable to the institution you wish to apply to. Universities may vary in how they interpret British qualifications and what level of study they see them as equivalent to. For detailed information on European qualification standards and equivalencies visit the ENIC-NARIC website: enic-naric.net/

Find out if you need to take a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT). If so, you will need to submit your grade with your application. You can find sample questions and test preparation booklets on the relevant websites.

Funding Postgraduate study abroad

Post-graduate tuition fees can vary from £3,000 up to at least £30,000 depending on the course you want to study and where. For information on fees and funding, contact the International Office of the universities that appeal to you and read our guide: mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides/postgraduate-study-funding.pdf

Careers & Employability Support

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- **Detailed careers guides:** Our full range of careers guides, including information on finding and applying for work and further study opportunities are available on our website: mmu.ac.uk/careers-guides
- **Ask a Careers Question Online:** Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email mmu.ac.uk/careersquestion
- **Careers Consultant Appointments:** Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss working or studying abroad with a Careers & Employability Consultant by calling 0161 247 3483.
- **Careers Events:** Meet employers and enhance your employability by attending our workshops, employer events and careers fairs mmu.ac.uk/careers/events

For more information visit mmu.ac.uk/careers