Career Preparation for Students Returning Home

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Agenda

• Career planning basics
• Employability skills
• Career tips and strategies
Getting back to basics

Who am I? What do I want?

“I am not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world”

You have changed while you lived and studied in Australia:

- New experiences
  - New skills and knowledge
  - Different perspectives

Your home country, family, friends and workplaces will have changed

What are the expectations of your family / friends for you?

If you are returning to your former workplace, what are their expectations of you?

How do all these factors impact your career plans?
Some career questions to consider

- Same job / same organisation? New job / same organisation? New job / different organisation? Nothing definite?
- What was I hoping to achieve from my study?
- How can I contribute to my community using my study abroad experience?
- Where do I want to be in five years time?
- What is my plan?
- Who are my allies / supporters?
- What are the opportunities?
What skills did you develop from your experience studying at Swinburne?

- Self management
- Technology
- Problem solving
- Analytical
- Leadership
- Initiative
- Communication
- Learning
- Planning & organising
- Cultural awareness
- Teamwork
- International perspective
- Emotional intelligence
- Job related technical skills
Career strategy

- Step 1: Settle back in – give yourself time to transition
- Step 2: Think about your next move
- Step 3: Develop a career vision
- Step 4: Meet with old managers, old friends and colleagues to schedule a career discussion
- Step 5: Research what is available in your home country
- Step 6: In all meetings, demonstrate you can add value by applying your learning and sharing your knowledge
- Step 7: Be open to projects & special assignments – take advantage of opportunities

Can you think of anything else to add?
Research tips

Be aware of what is happening in terms of your home country economics and employment market
- Labour market / economic environment
- Growth or decline of jobs / industries
- Changes in your area of expertise
- Research what employers are looking for – qualifications, skills, attributes
- Understand key employers business, clients, growth areas

How?
- Business journals / magazines / websites
- Personal contacts
- Industry publications
- Australian business associations overseas
  e.g. Australia Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce, Malaysia Australia Business Council etc
- Swinburne Alumni Chapters
Career development tips

- You may need to explain the benefits of an Australian education to employers
  E.g. practical business focus, international perspective, professional projects, contacts, new insights

- Consider an employer with an Australian focus or connection
  E.g. cultural insight, language, contacts, systems

- Create your own opportunities - consider starting your own business

- Find a professional mentor / mentor others

- Keep focussed on your personal and professional development

- Join Australian and home country professional associations

- Remember you are a global citizen – be open to international opportunities
International students have unique value

In addition to the standard employee, you can offer:

- Bi-cultural / bi-lingual advantage
- Latest industry developments and insights from overseas
- Provide ‘intelligence’ – assist employers to understand new markets and tap into different networks
- Import & export opportunity focus
- The resilience and creativity of having lived and studied abroad
Career tool kit

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Social media profile – e.g. LinkedIn
- Contacts
- Referees
- Written references from your time in Australia
  - Lecturers
  - Employers
  - Volunteer supervisors
- Academic transcript, projects, connections
- SwinEmploy – Goin’Global
Country Career Guides
Packed with country-specific career information, this research tool provides expert advice and insider tips for finding employment opportunities at home and abroad.

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