

Seeking & Securing International Employment: Spotting International Employment Scams



Understand cultural norms and safety issues before applying

- **Know the requirements for visa and work permits:** These requirements differ from country to country, and obtaining a visa or work permit can be a lengthy process. [Electronic Embassy](#) and [Overseas Jobs](#) have links for foreign embassies' websites, where a country's visa and work permit requirements are usually listed.
- **Know how the job search differs abroad:** Job search etiquette and the format of a resume, a CV, or an interview differ depending on the country and region. See [Going Global](#) or [QuintCareers Global Career Resources](#) for helpful articles on these topics.
- **Be aware of the following:** Review [Department of State Travel Information](#) and their [Travel Advisories](#), locate the nearest [U.S. Embassy](#), and research health risks for the geographic region through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Protect yourself by being aware

- Beware if a company charges a fee for anything (training, visa processing etc.). The employer should be sponsoring your visa and should not ask for large wire transfers of money.
- Ask the recruiter for a personal reference from the U.S., inquire how else they recruit candidates, and find a professional reference from another company in the same industry.
- Perform an internet search of the company's name + words like scam, review, or complaints.
- Beware if a company asks for extensive background information (copies of immigration documents, social security card, government issued ID, passport). Never share copies of these documents with a company or individual you have not met. Only give these documents to your employer when you are physically at the place of employment.
- Beware if a company asks for your bank account or credit card information. They may indicate it is for setting up direct deposit to pay your salary, for example. If the employment offer is a scam, they may use the info to steal money from your account.
- Gain an understanding of how espionage for [corporations](#) occurs, watch out for conflicts of interest, and be wary of cash scholarships for applying for U.S. government positions [domestically or abroad](#).
- Read any employment contract thoroughly and make sure you understand all components before signing.
- Beware if it is a position (paid or volunteer) that you would typically need a license for in the U.S. and they are not asking for one (example: nursing). Accepting a non-licensed position abroad could jeopardize future licensed employment in the U.S. Review the UI Study Abroad page on [Ethical Interactions Abroad](#). For health related positions, please see the Forum on Education Abroad's [Guidelines for Undergraduate Health-Related Experiences Abroad](#), and become a [Global Ambassador for Patient Safety](#) in order to protect yourself and your patients.

For assistance with [international safety questions](#), contact the UI Study Abroad office at safety-abroad@uiowa.edu or (319) 335-0353. For assistance with applying for international positions, please schedule a [career advising appointment](#) via MyUI. Select any career community of interest to you, then select "Seeking International Employment" as the appointment reason.

Please review "[How to spot fraudulent employers and postings in the U.S.](#)" for more information, as well as advice specific to international students.