Emily: Hello and thanks for listening to CareerCast. I’m Emily Gilliam and I’m joined by Jasper Cole, Nick Killingsworth, and Michael Boyd. Today our topic is international careers. Almost everyone is looking for some sort of international experience, so we have some great tips to help you get that job abroad. How does one go about acquiring a job abroad, Michael?

Michael: Well, there are opportunities in every field for international work. The best way to look for an international job is to do a sector-specific job search. Sector-based job searches provide you with a list of international employers with in your target field. Now since a large number of international jobs are actually located within the U.S., job seekers should try to identify which employers send their employees abroad on a regular basis. You’ll also need to decide what type of organization you want to work for.

Jasper: What kind of organizations are there Michael?

Michael: There are many types of firms. The most common are private firms, non-government organizations (commonly called a NGOs), or governments. After choosing one of these organizations, the next step is to decide what type of work you want to do while abroad. Once these two things have been determined, you are ready to research the major companies that are available to you. You should start by researching the major international organizations that represent your chosen field of work. Most of these organizations have locations all over the world – even branches in the United States. One great way to gather information is to contact an international expert and ask them for career advice about getting started in your chosen field. Not only will this provide you with necessary information, but it will also help you establish advantageous connections that will be beneficial in your job search.

Nick: That’s great stuff, Michael, but what fields are popular in foreign countries? Are there any careers that would be particularly helpful in enabling me to land an international job?

Emily: Nursing is popular in any country, not just the third world; nurses make up at least 50% of the health workforce in every country and as much as 80% of the health workforce in many other countries.

IT jobs and other high tech fields are especially popular in Europe, and in China and Japan business and sales jobs are both popular as well.

Choosing to learn a foreign language while still in school will also be very beneficial in the future; it makes you very appealing to companies looking to send people abroad. You will be able to navigate in a country even if English is not the language of choice; furthermore, the company will not need to hire a translator which will save them time and money. Basically anything that you do in the United States you can do in another country. However, international experience provides you with many benefits. You often receive more responsibility in a foreign environment, and you are immersed in a new language and a new culture. The most important thing to remember about international careers is to plan ahead because many companies require previous foreign experience before they will send you abroad to work for them. Just be sure to look for opportunities to study abroad on campus or through independent organizations.
Nick: Speaking of gaining foreign experience, one great opportunity comes from a program called BUNAC. BUNAC stands for British Universities North America Club and is a recognized leader in international work programs. It is also a non profit, non political member’s organization that offers a low cost way to gain experience in another country. BUNAC’s main purpose is to provide college students with an opportunity to work, but not necessarily study abroad. BUNAC does have some basic requirements: You must be 18 years old, a full-time student, and a U.S. citizen with a passport. Through BUNAC you can hold many different types of jobs throughout the globe including working in a Business Sector, career related job, internship, or working in a local Pub or restaurant. You can hold a job in Britain, Ireland, Canada, ey?, Australia with the pouch animals, New Zealand, South Africa, Peru, or Cambodia. In South Africa, Peru, and Cambodia, you would be volunteering in a community project. These projects would range from environmental and conservation work to education and social welfare. Each program differs in the amount that must be paid, but the non-volunteer work ranges from $250 - $595 and the volunteer costs range from $1270-$1695. If you are interested in BUNAC you can contact them at www.bunac.org or call them at 1-800-GO-BUNAC.

Jasper: That sounds like a great opportunity, Nick, I just have a few myths to bust about getting an international job. The first is the misconception that you have to find a job with a foreign company in a specific country. Actually it is quite easy to find a job with a United States Company that will send you overseas. In fact, 85% of all international entry-level positions are based with United States organizations. Another surprising fact is that 50% of all international jobs do not even require international travel. Many people like an international project manager never leave the US. However, they do gain exposure to foreign cultures here in the United States. Another thing to think about is that large international corporations and multinationals are not always the way to go when looking for a job. They often only send senior staff members if anyone abroad. Don’t ignore small or medium size companies when conducting your job search.

Emily: Well, I hope that everything that we have talked about today has been useful. Thank you for listening to this CareerCast and good luck in your job search.