

INCORPORATING STUDY ABROAD IN YOUR *Interviews*

Consider *How to Incorporate:*

The STAR ★ Method

Situation	Task	Action	Result
SET UP AND EXPLAIN THE SITUATION/CONTEXT	DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED	SHARE THE CONCRETE ACTION YOU TOOK	EXPLAIN THE END RESULT OF YOUR ACTIONS



PRO TIP :

The best interview answers provide situational examples to demonstrate your abilities and demonstrate that you have real-life successful experiences related to the core job responsibilities. Think of stories from abroad and practice your examples in advance!

EXAMPLE:

- ★ **SITUATION:** On my exchange program at Sophia University in Tokyo, I lived in off-campus dorms 30 minutes from campus
- ★ **TASK:** I had to commute to class everyday and had been relying on my phone for directions, but one day, I forgot to charge it and it died
- ★ **ACTION:** I took note of landmarks and used some survival Japanese skills to find someone who spoke English and asked for directions
- ★ **RESULT:** I developed great problem-solving skills and adaptability and became more confident and independent and less reliant on technology
- ★ ***RELATE:** These skills would be an asset for this particular role because...

Craft Your “Elevator Pitch”:

As you plan to approach the topic of study abroad in an interview, be prepared that your interviewer may ask you more generally to “tell them about your experience” or “how was your time abroad”? Develop a standard response that could be customized to the role as well, so you’re not caught just saying “it was amazing!”. Consider:

- Why did you choose to study abroad?
- What goals did you set for yourself and did you accomplish them, if so, how?
- How did you grow academically, professionally and personally from studying abroad?
- What lessons did you learn from studying abroad?
- How has studying abroad shaped the way you see the world, your role in it, etc.?

Common Interview Questions that Best Tie in with Study Abroad:

- Tell us about yourself. - Consider how studying abroad influenced who you are now
- Why are you interested in this position? - Consider how your study abroad experience influenced your career choices
- How do you handle stressful situations?
- Tell us about a time when you had to adjust to a change.
- What are your strengths/areas for growth?
- Tell us about a time when you had to solve a complex problem.
- Tell us about a challenge you encountered and how you overcame it.
- How do you stay organized?



PRO TIP :

Don't wait for your interviewer to ask you about your study abroad experience, weave it into any and all answers with various relevant stories - make sure you've researched the company and know what's relevant to them and their work!

OSA IS HERE TO HELP!



studyabr@gwu.edu



studyabroad.gwu.edu



2127 G St. NW
Washington, DC 20052



202-994-1649

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC