

The Benefits of Global Experience for Youth Employability and Career Development

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Description of the project

This project involves researching and documenting relevant studies on what makes youth with 'global experiences' (*such as work experience abroad/travel experience/international volunteer experience*) more attractive to employers and involves:

- 1) Exploring the role of international experience for youth in obtaining both soft and hard skills (cultural awareness/understanding/intelligence, language acquisition, increased social network) and developing global competencies (critical thinking, resilience, adaptability, and emotional intelligence)
- 2) Exploring the link between global experience and entrepreneurial skills
- 3) Perception of global work experiences by employers (do they view it as an asset?)

The objective of this project is two-fold. First, this project will provide us with a comprehensive literature review in this area to use as a reference for conducting future research, and will help provide evidence for program design and development at International Experience Canada. Second, this project will provide us with a comprehensive list of data sources available for conducting further research in this area.

Although the project itself does not involve the application of econometric techniques, a strong understanding of quantitative techniques is required to analyze, understand, and report back on the findings of the literature review in a meaningful way. A significant portion of the work term will involve: 1) examining the literature to determine what has already been written in the areas of interest and 2) identifying a comprehensive list of data sources available (as well as gaps), including their weaknesses and strengths, for conducting future research in this area. The supervisor will be able to guide the student on this front.

Benefits to the participant and Project Requirements

The work we suggest in this term would equip the student with a thorough understanding of the importance of obtaining international experience abroad to future employment opportunities. An effective search can only be accomplished with an understanding, at the onset, of the complexity of the subject matter and the policy relevance of research in this area. Hence, the supervisor will spend time with the student going over the proposed project in great detail. In addition, the student will not only be asked to search out existing literature, s/he will be required to discuss/ask questions during the weekly meetings with the supervising research analyst in charge in regards to this project as well as data needs/gaps.

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Project Deliverables and Timelines

- October 7th:** Annotated bibliography of relevant research
- A minimum of 20 sources is required (1-2 paragraphs summarizing key findings, strengths and limitations of research piece)
- November 18th:** Draft report of major findings for each *suggested* theme identified below:
- A. Role of Global Experiences for Youth in Developing Soft and Hard Skills and Global Competencies**
Factors to consider in this section are...
- *Cultural intelligence/awareness/understanding*
 - *Language acquisition*
 - *Development of global social networks*
 - *Identify transformation*
 - *Critical thinking*
 - *Resilience*
 - *Adaptability*
 - *Emotional intelligence*
- B. Connection between Global Experience and Entrepreneurial Skills**
This section is particularly important given the significance of entrepreneurial skills in today's global environment
- C. Employers perceptions of global work experience (e.g., do they view it as an asset?)**
- December 21st:** Submit final report to supervisor including:
- major findings (will also cover data needs, availability and gaps for conducting research in this area)
 - annotated bibliography (will cover strengths and weaknesses of each research piece)
- January (Date TBC):** Design PowerPoint presentation, and present key findings of report to International Experience Canada, IRCC.

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Meeting Schedule and Course Milestones

- Teleconference once or twice a week (or more frequently, if required) for approximately 1-2 hours to discuss the project and to identify any issues or concerns.

Milestone	Fall 2016
Submission of applications by students	September 9
Sponsors and students informed about outcome of matching	September 13
Student interviews with sponsors	September 14-21
Last day for students to register in ECO4150	September 22
University of Ottawa Reading Week	October 23-29
Classes end	December 7