Job Fair Prep for International Students

UVM Career Center
What to expect?

- Over 120 employers from around the United States, 1,000 Students
- Davis Center
- Networking Opportunities:
  - Learn about the companies
  - Make connections and build relationships
  - Not all employers are currently hiring or take resumes
  - Make an impression
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- What employers expect? Interactive conversation about your interest in the company
- Prepare! Look at the employer list ahead of time and research. Go to the Mock Interview Workshop for International Students
- Think about how you present yourself: dress & hygiene, handshake, elevator speech
- How to follow up after the Job Fair
What Employers Expect?

• Share information about their organization
• Highlight new opportunities and roles
• Someone to “WOW” them
Prepare!

- Research as much as you can about your top 3 employers. You do not need to know everything just be able to have a conversation about the basics of the industry and why the organization interests you.

- Explore the employer homepage; use LinkedIn, Google, Glass Door; Going Global and other online tools.

- Look at the Job Fair brochure. Make a priority plan of who you want to talk to.
How to Handle your International Student Status

There are 4 types of companies:
1- Don’t and won’t hire international students
2. Do and will- they have and will again
3- Never have before and not sure: may be open to it
4- Have done it for certain positions: will consider it again

DO YOUR RESEARCH!!

Look at Going Global, Department of Labor, myvisajobs.com to see who has hired in the past

WHEN TO BRING IT UP? Find out where the company stands ahead of time. www.myvisajobs.com: You don’t need to ask ahead of time.
DRESS / HYGIENE

THINGS TO DO:
- Wear classic styles
- Have clean hair and nails
- Wear dark socks and shoes
- Wear a belt and a tie
- Wear deodorant
- Brush your teeth and have a mint on hand

DO NOT:
- Wear perfume/cologne
- Wear distracting jewelry.
Introductions

First impressions happen in the first few minutes- Make a good one with...

✧ a firm handshake
✧ a warm smile and confident introduction
✧ enthusiasm and confidence
✧ present an elevator speech

Be ready to answer an opening question:

“Tell me a little about yourself”

“Tell me what you know/like about our company”
How to Prepare and Elevator Speech

- My name is____, and I am a (senior, Master student) in _____. (field or major)

- ______ (Company name) interests me because…

- My experience(or skills) are in_______. (Provide relevant experience or skills related to the position and maybe an example)

- Mention why you are interested in the company if you have researched it. OR I noticed that you don’t currently have a position posted but I am wondering if there may be an opportunity coming down the pipeline that would suit my skills set.

- Find a way to make yourself memorable if you can!

  My last employer said”_____” about me.

  I really enjoy_______>
Practice your speech

- Take a few minutes to construct your elevator speech)—this is your 60 second commercial or pitch about YOU
- Find a partner
- Deliver your speeches to each other
- What did your partner do well?
- What could your partner improve on?
- Practice, Practice, Practice!
FINAL TIPS

- If you mention you are a quick learner, be prepared to talk about something you taught yourself
- Do not argue with the recruiter
- Be sure to leave time to talk to companies you hadn’t thought of
- The Job Fair ends at 6:00pm so get there earlier rather than later
- Don’t be distracted by the crowd. Be engaged with them in conversation for the few minutes you have
- Respect the line- don’t give up your turn. Don’t take up too much time. Read cues
- Have a game plan for your conversation– do you want to learn about the culture of the company? Learn about the department?
- Ask for a business card and write a thank you. Write it within 24 hours of the fair- Reinforce your interest and qualifications!