



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW:

In today's interconnected business landscape, a comprehensive understanding of global issues is paramount for success in any facet of the business world. Organizations are increasingly seeking individuals who possess the ability to thrive in diverse business environments. As the world continues to "shrink," expanding companies internationally create a wealth of opportunities for those with international exposure in their education and work background.

INDUSTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

- **Realism is key:** If you lack international experience, language proficiency, and contacts in foreign countries, embarking on an international career right away might not be feasible. Enhance your marketability and consult resources like "My World Abroad" (free to Dalhousie users – register at <https://myworldabroad.com/dal>)
- **Begin with Canadian experience:** Start by gaining domestic exposure within a multinational organization, then target international roles within the same company.
- **Expand your international network:** Forge connections with students and faculty members who have global work experience. Building relationships is invaluable.
- **Adapt your resume:** Depending on the region you're applying to, consider including or omitting certain personal details like marital status, gender, and date of birth.
- **Stay legally employable:** Make it easy to be employed from a legal standpoint by researching work visa requirements for your desired destination. Flexibility in destination might be necessary.

ADVANTAGES OF WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS:

- **Global Exposure:** International roles offer first-hand insights into global markets, cultures, and business practices.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Interaction with diverse cultures fosters cross-cultural knowledge and adaptability.
- **Language Proficiency:** Multilingualism enhances communication and relationship-building.
- **Networking Opportunities:** International work builds a diverse network for future career growth.
- **Enhanced Skill Set:** International business cultivates interpersonal, problem-solving, and leadership skills.

SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

International experience hones certain skills that domestic experience might not. Crucial skills to either possess or develop include:

- Cross-cultural knowledge (insight into different cultures)
- Personal adaptability
- Strong interpersonal aptitude
- Effective writing and analytical abilities
- Cross-cultural communication proficiency
- Multi-lingual capabilities
- Exceptional organizational skills
- Leadership finesse



TIPS FOR PURSUING A CAREER IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS:

- **Domestic Foundation:** Begin with experience in multinational firms within your home country.
- **Relevant Electives:** Opt for international-focused courses such as 'Global Marketing', 'Business in Emerging Markets', 'International Financial Management', and 'International Management' to understand global business dynamics.
- **International Networking:** Engage with global peers, mentors, and organizations to expand your reach.

STRATEGIC TIMING FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK:

- It is recommended that you use your third work term for an international work term. This allows time for you to work on developing an international network, and to research organizations and target employers based on your interests. This process can take significantly longer than for domestic work terms.
- By your final work term, you will have two previous work term experiences, allowing you to build skills and experience and increase your potential for an employer to consider your application.
- Familiarize yourself with visa application procedures and timelines for different countries, accounting for fees, deadlines, and entry processes.
- Consult your CRS early in your program to plan your international work term journey.

TYPICAL JOB TITLES:

- Trade Analyst/Assistant
- Foreign Trade Consultant
- Customs Broker
- International Brand Manager
- International Marketing Specialist
- Currency Dealer
- Business Analyst
- Foreign Affairs Specialist
- International Investment Banking Intern

VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR ASPIRING INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS:

- www.linkedin.com - Leverage student job search and alumni tools to connect with relevant professionals worldwide.
- www.international.gc.ca - Explore travel and work abroad resources for Canadians.
- www.vergemagazine.com - Discover opportunities for studying, working, and volunteering abroad.
- www.aiesec.ca - Access global internships through the world's largest student-run organization.
- www.swap.ca - Navigate work authorization in multiple countries, complete with participant support.
- www.culturalvistas.org - Obtain a J-1 Training Visa for working in the USA.
- www.monster.com/geo/siteselection.aspx - Identify and research companies across various countries.
- www.globalcareercenter.org/ - Subscribe for premium content.
- cewilcanada.ca/CEWIL/CEWIL/Resources/Students/Student-Resources-Folder/International-Resources/International-Resources.aspx - Explore CEWIL's comprehensive resources for international work terms.