

Self-Evaluation: Your Travel Experiences

Prepare to analyze your experience while you are abroad and upon your return.

**Write your name and date here.**

## **3**

A group of people sitting around a table

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Think Analytically About Being Abroad

Congratulations! You’ve landed a working holiday job abroad and are now undertaking the dream of living and working overseas – now don’t miss the opportunity to document it in writing.

A cartoon of a person with three boys

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| Writing Tips   * **Even if writing isn't your thing**, jotting down a few notes about your adventures can really boost what you get out of your travels. It's a simple way to learn more and make your journey even more valuable! * **Move beyond** simple enthusiasm and basic anecdotes (“The Taj Mahal was incredible!”)! * **Maximize the professional value of your international experience** by thinking more deeply about your experiences. * **Incorporate an analytical perspective** as opposed to simply recounting your experiences. | * **Write** as if you were speaking to a employer, a mentor or a professor. * **Show** your knowledge, skills and attitude. * **Develop career stories:** Ask yourself what specific interactions with locals gave you insights into the culture and allowed you to build valuable skills like adaptability? * **Demonstrate your insights** in terms of global competencies & career readiness as well as intercultural interactions. |

14 Questions to Get You Thinking   
Analytically About Your Experience

| Questions | Your Answers |
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| 1. When and where did you travel abroad? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What made you want to travel abroad? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What has been the biggest surprise about your travel experiences abroad? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. Have you participated in cultural activities abroad? If so, how did they differ from the ones in your home culture? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What has made your travel experience abroad a success? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. How did you finance your trip abroad and have you found any creative solutions to stay on budget? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. Can you talk about a particular instance that gave you insight into your host culture or that helped you build cross-cultural communication skills? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. How did you deal with the cultural divide? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. Have you returned? If so, what was your return like? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What is your number one tip for anyone hoping to follow in your footsteps? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. Describe an experience that made a particularly strong impression on you. | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What do/did you miss most about your home while traveling abroad? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. Do you have any final observations on your experience? | Write your notes here. |
| 1. What are your future plans for going abroad and for your career? | Write your notes here. |

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| Energize Your Self-Evaluation | | | |
| When you first head abroad, it’s energizing to get caught up in the excitement of the moment. | You’ll be in a state of high energy with so much stimulation around you, breathing in the wondrous air of your new home. You’ll be speed learning as you figure out how best to communicate across cultures, how to behave and how to get around. It’s easy to let this time fly by without stopping to reflect on your experiences – but don’t miss the chance to harness this energy and write about your impressions of life abroad! Not only will your writing be interesting to read when your adventure comes to an end; it will also give you unique insights into your personal and professional skill development.  By writing, you’ll be reflecting on your experiences from a different perspective, and you’ll surely find new and interesting ways of understanding your process of cultural immersion. | By thinking and making notes about your time abroad, you’ll also be building a professional profile of yourself in this new cross-cultural environment.  You’ll be able to observe yourself as you grow into an effective communicator and culture-savvy young professional.  So, pick up a pen, or flip open your laptop and start writing as soon as you plan to go abroad. We recommend writing in a professional, thoughtful tone. This will allow you to easily transfer your writings into an interview or on-the-job context. *MyWorldAbroad* has compiled a selection of questions that will help you focus your writing and prepare you for the moment when a potential employer asks you about your time abroad. |

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| A group of boys standing together  Description automatically generatedDon't Forget  the Visuals!  Also, when you go abroad, be sure to document them with photographs and/or videos. Collect photos that showcase or highlight your interactions with locals, rather than simply collecting standard sight-seeing photos. When you do take a sight-seeing photo, make sure you’re in it! Photos without people can be boring, and they don't highlight your personal involvement.  Try for a few pictures of you with a couple of other people in a work or school environment, doing group work, presenting etc. Close ups are generally best. | A computer and keyboard with text  Description automatically generatedSubmit Your  Story from Abroad  If you are an internationally minded student or young professional with cross-cultural travel experience, why not submit your answers to the questions above as a [Story from Abroad](http://www.myworldabroad.com/storiesfromabroad) to *MyWorldAbroad*? Here at *MyWorldAbroad*, we are eager to highlight exceptional student stories! Your story will be professionally edited so that you will shine and look your professional best. [Access the submissions page here](http://myworldabroad.com/submit-story) (and receive a $50 gift card).  *We’d love to hear from you!* |

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