

# WORKING OVERSEAS: AUTHORIZED GATEWAYS

Susan A. Bird

Working overseas can be short-term, undertaken during undergraduate study, or a long-term overseas assignment or career undertaken after graduation. The latter is seeing dramatic growth, partly because students' horizons are expanding while employment opportunities at home are shrinking.

In the 1990s, the number of business school graduates taking jobs overseas has jumped as much as 20% in one year. Teachers, journalists, and language majors also are finding rewarding positions abroad. (See "Looking for Work? Try the World," TIME, 9/19/95.)

Increasingly, advisors in Offices of International Education are asked for advice about careers overseas.

For a number of reasons, students also are requesting information about temporary or short-term jobs overseas that can be undertaken for a summer or a semester during their undergraduate careers. They may not have the funds to support study abroad. Or they may want the experience of working overseas during the summer as an alternative to working in the U.S. They may need paid work rather than an unpaid internship. Or they may seek a work experience that puts them in touch with everyday citizens in a situation where nothing is required of them other than that they perform their job well.

Many of these short-term jobs are in tourism, agriculture, teaching or tutoring English, or child-care. It is difficult to locate and set up these kinds of short-term jobs before leaving home, so students need to be adventurous enough to set out without having an employment commitment. It is advisable to seek work overseas legally, of course.

For a modest fee, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Work Abroad Program will provide the student with a work permit, an information handbook, orientation upon arrival, a listing of jobs and housing, and the location of an CIEE office in each of the countries where work abroad is sanctioned. It will not

locate a job for the student. Other organizations also provide this kind of service.

Some countries allow those holding student visas to work part-time without special permission. In France and Japan, for example, it is legal for students to work up to 20 hours a week while studying.

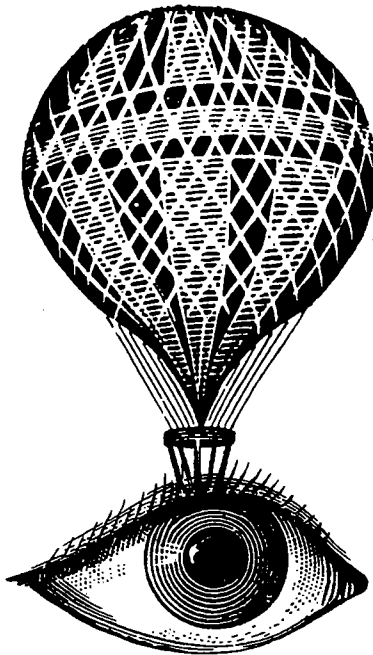
Some students will always work illegally, either while they study or hold the status of a tourist. Baby-sitting, tutoring, language lessons, bar-tending and restaurant service are all common jobs held by students seeking to stretch their dollars a little further overseas. It is important for us as advisers, however, to warn students of the potential consequences of working illegally. Deportation may result. Since it is relatively inexpensive and painless to obtain permission to work in advance, anyone going to a country where a work abroad program exists should obtain the permit before departure.

While information about working overseas has been difficult to collect, help is at hand. Bill Nolting, Director of International Opportunities at the University of Michigan International Center, has written what he modestly describes as an attempt at a near-comprehensive bibliography of the latest

books on work abroad and international careers, plus relevant Internet groups. The 200 listings he has compiled are published in the September/October issue of *Transitions Abroad* in his article "Work Abroad: The Key Resources."

This same issue contains another article by Susan Griffith, entitled "Short-Term Work Abroad: The Key Resources and Organizations."

For additional information about the programs and publications listed above, contact: Bill Nolting: (313) 747-2299; fax (313) 747-2181; [bnolting@umich.edu](mailto:bnolting@umich.edu); Information about Susan Griffith's book is available from Peterson's Guides at 800 EDUDATA; For information on CIEE's Work Abroad Program, contact Paul Feltman, Director Work Exchanges, CIEE Tel: (212) 661-1414 Ext. 1126; Fax: (212) 972-3231; E-Mail: [info@ciee.org](mailto:info@ciee.org).



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