Career and Visa Options for International Students

NAFSA: Association of International Educators
Region IV Conference
October 20, 2009
Rochester, MN
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters

- Julie Rabaey, International Center (on site at NAFSA conference)
- Pamela Weller-Dengel, Career Development Center (via Skype)
- Marni Dunning, Information Technology (via Skype)
- Additional Tech Support, Ludmi Herath, International Center (on site)
History of MSU Career & Visa Options Workshop

- Initiated similar collaborations between International Offices & Career Centers on past campuses: North Dakota State University, UW-Madison, Gustavus Adolphus College
- Started co-presenting ISO/CDC at MSU Spring 2005, continued to offer each semester
- Made handouts available at ISO (now IC)/CDC offices
- Added PowerPoint, handouts to website(s)
- Videotaped workshop
- Developed D2L Summer 2009
Why provide a Career and Visa Options Workshop?

- Connect services/expertise
- Encourage international students to utilize resources, plan ahead
- Identify U.S. barriers/realities - develop alternative strategies
- Prepare the international student for employment/visa realities
- Prevent immigration difficulties (former cap-gap issues)
How to provide Career and Visa Options Session with Information

Sources - and cautions

- **Immigration Attorneys**
  - Marketing law firm/services - quality control

- **Campus resources** (HR, Career Center, International Student Office, IT)
  - Coordinating - no legal advising, limited scope

- **Alumni**
  - Providing past case scenarios - situation specific, procedures change

- **Web-based resources**
  - Providing a project to research, identify, collect options & materials available (e.g., Intern, GA, OPT volunteer) - maintaining/updating challenges & source verification
Career and Visa Options Poster

- Sent announcement to all MSU international students via e-mail listserv
- Posted in International Center and Career Development Center
- Located on International Center website: www.mnsu.edu/international/immigrationlaws/

*Fall session to be held November 9, 2009*
Career & Visa Options for International Students

November 9, 2009 1:00 pm—1:30 pm CSU 201

for Questions and Answers

Questions & Answers from representatives of the Kearney International Center and the Career Development Center.

In advance of attending the half hour Q & A, international students must review the D2L course “Visa and Employment Options” or the PowerPoint on the Kearney International Center website: http://www.mnsu.edu/international/immigrationlaws/

The information is very comprehensive and in the past required 1 1/2 hours to present. Therefore, the material is now provided in advance for your review. Note this information is directed towards MSU International Students who are or will be applying for internships and/or jobs within the United States. Areas covered in the D2L and/or PowerPoint address specific aspects of the challenges international students face in the U.S. job market and how to successfully prepare a resume and conduct an interview “American Style”. In addition, visa options are addressed including Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), H-1B Temporary Workers in Specialty Occupations visas, and Permanent Residency (“green card”). The presentation is to follow up with specific questions after reviewing the D2L or web Power Point material.
Career and Visa Options PowerPoint on Web

- **PowerPoint located at**
  www.mnsu.edu/international/immigrationlaws

- **Not legal resource - our campus cannot advise/assist your students**

- **Needs updating (USCIS links based upon past website)**
Career and Visa Options for International Students

This material is directed towards MSU international students who are or will be applying for internships and/or jobs within the United States. Areas covered will be specific aspects of the challenges international students face in the U.S. job market and how to successfully prepare a resume and conduct an interview “American style.” In addition, visa options will be addressed including Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), H-1B Temporary Workers in Specialty Occupations visas, and Permanent Residency (“green card”).

Please read over all slides in advance of attending Q & A session.

Questions and Answers based upon this information will be held:
Monday, November 9, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
CSU 201, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Presenters: Staff from the Kearney International Center and the Career Development Center
Content of Career and Visa Options
PowerPoint on Web in event Internet
Connection unavailable

- Job Market Overview
- Visa Options (F-1, J-1 and Alphabet Soup/Work Visas, non-immigrant and PR clarification)
- Resume (U.S. vs. International)
- References
- H-1B Employment (Definition, cap gap)
- Approaching topic of H-1B visas with employers, identifying H-1B / PR employers
- Interviewing (legal vs. illegal questions)
- Job Search
- Advice/Tips
- F-1 updates: OPT reporting, procedures for OPT extension and cap-gap.
- Services provided: Career Development and International Center
Career and Visa Options PowerPoint on D2L

- **Advantages**
  - Modules (content can be chosen)
  - Tracking (see participant usage)
  - Video enhanced
  - Effective use of time (trial this November to require review in advance) to reduce presentation time from 1 ½ hours to 30 minutes.

- **Challenges**
  - Updated only by IT assistance
  - Subscriber-based by Tech ID for on-campus students only, loaded by IT
D2L Content
D2L Sample screen of Alphabet Soup
D2L Tour of Career Development Center Resources

http://echo360.campus.mnsu.edu:8080/ess/echo/presentation/32d5b4a0-4139-46d9-9ef9-8ead07955c0a
Contacts in event Internet Access unavailable: All within Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mankato, MN 56001

- Julie Rabaey, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services, Kearney International Center, CSU 250; phone: 507-389-1281; e-mail: julie.rabaey@mnsu.edu
- Pamela Weller-Dengel, Director of the Career Development Center, 209 Wigley Admin. Bldg.; phone: 507-389-6061; e-mail: pamela.weller-dengel@mnsu.edu
- Marni Dunning, Instructional Designer, Information and Technology Services, 3010 Memorial Library; phone: 507-389-5892; e-mail: marni.dunning@mnsu.edu