

Starting your Career - Country Guides for International Students

Final Project Report – i-graduate

October 2010

1. Executive Summary

Employability is a key concern of international students when considering their satisfaction with UK higher education. Despite the best efforts of HE and FE careers services which deal face to face, in groups and online with thousands of international students and graduates per year, data from the International Student Barometer indicates that a sizeable proportion of international students are not satisfied with the careers provision and employment connections provided by their institution.

International careers information updated regularly and in a readily accessible web-based format is an important tool for international students, graduates and those advising them to improve career planning upon return to their home country.

The Country Guides for International Students project involved the development of a web based resource providing up to date labour market information to international students for an initial 9 countries. Current data from the International Student Barometer for UK institutions and the expertise of staff with country insights within the 15 countries were used in the production of the Guides.

The initial 9 Guides were produced in January-March 2009. An extension to a total of 15 Guides was completed in January 2010. An evaluation phase was undertaken during May-June 2010 to ensure the Guides were meeting their objectives as well as helping i-graduate to understand how they are used by students and institutions. Following the evaluation process, revised and updated versions of all 15 Guides were published online in early September 2010.

The evaluation indicated that the Guides were a valued resource being used by careers services in institutions and by international students, although it was clear there were some limitations in terms of the breadth of distribution and awareness of the Guides amongst career services and students. The evaluation also highlighted content which could be developed and added to help make the Guides more focused.

2. Project Overview

Building on resources already available, such as the AGCAS Country profiles and British Council information, the i-graduate team worked to gather and present labour market information for 15 countries in the format of Guides aimed at international graduates returning home following graduation.

It is anticipated that the series of Guides will improve the range and depth of information available to international students and those advising them, leading to a stronger competitive advantage in careers services for international students in the UK, and reinforcing the country's position in international education and employability.

2.1 Objectives

- To develop and maintain a live careers and labour market information resource for 15 markets around the world.
- To provide institution based careers and employment services with a valuable resource to enable them better to support international graduates seeking work in their home countries.
- To improve awareness of overseas labour markets and opportunities with employers from across a wider range of countries.
- To assist international students and graduates to find work and training in an international context.

2.2 Outputs

- 15 'Starting your Career' Guides detailing out labour market information for students returning to that country after studying in the UK.
- Guides produced for the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, UAE and USA.
- A regularly updated interactive web resource providing labour market information made available to all PMI institutions.
- A final report in 2010 giving a summary of the project and how it met its objectives.

2.3 Content

The Guides were based around the below agreed structure:

- Market data
- Employment data
- Career data
- Career opportunities
- Contacts

Information was gathered through country experts based within the 15 countries as well as insights gathered from the International Student Barometer data from international students in the UK.

2.4 Publication

The first 9 Guides once completed were published on the AGCAS website (Careers Service facing) in July 2009. AGCAS webpage can be accessed via this hyperlink:

http://www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/132-Starting-Your-Career-In-Country-Guides-for-International-Students

The first 6 Guides were made available on the NASES morethanwork website (student facing) in December 2009: <http://www.nases.org.uk/students/content/index.php?page=235123>

The subsequent 6 Guides were made available in January 2010 on both websites.

3. Evaluation phase

Prior to the revision of the Guides in Summer 2010, it was agreed to conduct an evaluation of the Guides through interviews with international students and careers staff within UK institutions. The number of institutions linking to the Guides on their sites and the usage statistics of the two sites which hosted the Guides were also examined.

3.1 Web statistics

Data from the AGCAS website captured during the evaluation phase in May 2010 indicated that the landing page for the Guides had received 132 page views and 87 unique views, with people spending around 3.3 minutes on the page.

NASES were able to provide us with information for the landing page on the morethanwork site during the evaluation phase. The site received 153 page views and 132 unique views, with individuals spending an average of 2.5 minutes on the page.

3.2 University websites

Analysis was also conducted by the i-graduate team to evaluate how many University careers service websites linked to the Guides on either the NASES or AGCAS websites. This analysis showed that 17 universities had clear links to the sites. Numerous universities were hosting the PDFs of the Guides on their own websites.

Several of the Careers Service staff interviewed stated that they held hard copies in their career services departments for use by international students.

It was clear from this evaluation that more could be done to encourage Universities to link to the external AGCAS/NASES websites for the future.

3.3 Careers Service staff interviews

A cross-section of careers service staff interviewed as part of the evaluation phase indicated that the Guides are a valuable tool and provide an additional level of detail for providing information to international students that they may not have had previously.

Some of the feedback from careers service staff is detailed below:

“Really pleased we now have this resource and that the i-grad survey results are being used to enhance the information. The overseas labour market has been quite neglected and we’ve relied a lot on the Prospects country profiles (written by HE careers advisers)”

“ We have the Country Guides on our website now but we also have hard copies on our files in the careers Centre that visitors to the Centre can browse through. Readers can then obviously go to our website and download a copy or we will photocopy for a student or graduate if requested.”

“Advisers will have different views on this question but the content within the 'Main routes to employment' section that covers application letters and the format of a CV/resume for the country in question is certainly filling a potential knowledge gap for us here”

“How are degrees/qualifications from other countries viewed by employers in that particular country? Case studies/profiles of graduates and employers. Tips on searching for work for nationals who have studied outside of their country. More vacancy and information resources, particularly on-line versions (though I appreciate these guides are intended as a starting point and are not meant to be an exhaustive resource)”

“It would be useful to see examples of letters and CVs or links to these. Case studies of graduates would be useful. I would also like to see examples of graduate schemes or examples of job adverts for graduates”

3.4 International student feedback

A group of 17 international students from the countries for which a guide has been produced were asked for their feedback. Of this group of students, the majority stated that they found the guide helpful.

Some of the comments from the international students are detailed below:

“The links to various job sites are the thing that first strikes me as helpful. I already know a lot of the information in the guide, but specific places to go for job listings are something I don't have memorized”

“the websites you listed for career job hunting are very well known. However, you didn't mention that many jobs these days are being found through social media and professional networking sites such as LinkedIn.com and doostang.com, and indeed.com these sites are more valuable in many ways than some of the larger more mainstream websites”

“A prototype example of successful CVs in the Nigerian employment market could be helpful. We have heard all those general guidelines, but a practical help will be more effective”

4. Revision of Guides

The evaluation provided two clear recommendations for the revision of the Guides going forward, these were:

1. The Guides require updating and revising to contain the most current labour market information
2. The Guides need to be more widely promoted and available, to students and staff

All 15 Guides were revised and updated to reflect changes to the labour market in those countries and to take on board the suggested additional areas from careers staff and international students.

The following updates were given a top priority:

- Update URLs and make URL provision consistent across all Guides
- Update labour market information
- Include case studies of graduates who have found work in the country or about their experience
- Include example CVs/covering letters for that country
- Information on alternative ways of finding way of finding employment by market e.g. social networking sites and other web tools (e.g. LinkedIn.com)

All of these updates and additions were made to the Guides where possible. Each Guide has a sample CV at the end for students to see how these should be set-out and what the content ought to be. Case studies were included where these could be collected within the timeframes.

Other updates recommended and how they were implemented are detailed below:

- Consider including information regarding how degrees/qualifications from other countries viewed by employers in that particular country
Section inserted entitled Benefits of a UK qualification
- Re-order the information about where to look for jobs, to prioritise websites over newspapers and printed resources
Section was re-ordered so that online recruitment and vacancy websites were listed first followed by social networking and employment agencies
- Make currencies used consistent (e.g. all USD \$ or GBP (£))
Currencies all presented in USD \$
- Consider further the growth in virtual fairs across all countries
This was a difficult to do as virtual fairs have not taken off in some countries compared to the UK
- Ensure the Guides are targeted more specifically at graduates – for example focus on graduate entry level jobs
The tone throughout was altered to ensure readers understood we were talking about graduate level jobs/searching. Alongside this a section was introduced entitled Graduating: Searching for work, which aimed to give an overview of what students should expect when looking for work at that level

- Add details of graduate schemes in country markets
Where this was possible, sections were added in.
- Add information on where graduates can seek further help in their home country
These sections were expanded upon from the original versions to be more detailed

The revised Guides were published on AGCAS/NASES websites in early September 2010. An example guide can be found in the appendix of this evaluation.

5. Usage statistics

Statistics were gathered from both AGCAS and NASES as a measure of how much usage the Guides were receiving on the websites on which they are hosted.

Between first publication on July 12th 2009 and October 20th 2010, the landing page on the AGCAS site received 3,600 page views and 2,105 unique views.

From when Guides were first published on the morethanwork site (December 2009) until October 22nd 2010, the Guides on the morethanwork website received 586 views in total and 427 unique views.

The number of unique views illustrate that some people were returning to the site to access the Guides.

6. Conclusions

The findings from the evaluation phase indicate that the Guides are a beneficial tool for Careers Services at UK institutions as an addition to their standard services and resources.

The outcomes from the evaluation process do suggest that more work could be done to promote these Guides more widely in UK institutions as well as to students. In particular now that the Guides have been updated and expanded, institutions that did not utilise them first time round may now find them a more useful resource.

7. Recommendations

The Guides could be more widely promoted, and available, to students and staff. This could be done through the following methods:

- In 2011, a message could be sent to *all* universities (perhaps both careers services and international offices), encouraging greater linkage to the Guides on the AGCAS and morethanwork sites, as feedback indicates they are useful and well regarded. Ongoing promotion during 2011 will raise awareness and increase usage.
- Universities hosting the older versions of the Guides ought to be informed of the updated Guides and asked to remove PDFs of the older versions hosted on their own university websites. Universities should be asked instead to link to the AGCAS or morethanwork sites directly, to

ensure they are linking to the most up to date publications and to ensure copyright is not breached.

- The Guides could also be promoted more widely to students via other routes e.g. through using links on social networking sites.

8. Sustainability

The Guides are 'living' documents that reflect the labour market and employment situation of a specific country at the present time. A student graduating and returning to their home country in future years may find that the employment situation in their country differs to that detailed in the 2010 Guide. Therefore, efforts should be made to keep the Guides up to date in order to sustain their value and to ensure students have access to accurate and current employment information and advice.

As further central funding is unavailable for sustaining the Country Guides, i-graduate will seek advertising revenue to provide funding for maintenance and development of the Guides in future years.

We will actively seek a minimum of £3,000 per country per year in advertising revenue, either from a single organisation (e.g. with a full page advertisement within a Guide) or multiple advertisers.

Positioning the Guides as the official British government guides for international student career advice should ensure that organisations are keen to pay for valuable advertising space in a Guide or Guides relevant to their country, in order to raise awareness of their organisation amongst graduates and UK universities.

i-graduate will seek to work in partnership with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to identify key graduate employers in the 15 countries which could be approached with a simple advertising package.

Only Guides for countries where a minimum of £3,000 advertising has been secured will be revised and updated.

Advertising will be sought in April-June 2011 and 2012 for all 15 countries. Updating will take place in July-August 2011 and 2012 for countries where advertising has been secured. The updated Guides will be ready for re-launch online in September 2011 and 2012. After 2012, the sustainability process will be reviewed again.

Further information

For further information about i-graduate, the Country Guides or the International Student Barometer, please contact info@i-graduate.org.

Starting your career in **Singapore** Country Guide for International Students



You chose to study in the United Kingdom. You are beginning to think about what your options are after graduation. Building on an excellent international education you are returning to your home country, Singapore. You stand at the beginning of an exciting career, but what are the steps you need to take in order to find a suitable job, and where do you find the information you need?

This careers profile provides you with practical advice about returning to work in Singapore to help you make a successful start in your career in the Singapore labour market. Included are key facts about current trends and jobs in Singapore industry, advice about seeking employment in Singapore, hints and tips for making a successful application, and helpful information sources.

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Country profile

Singapore has in recent decades become one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Its port is one of the busiest; its GDP per capita equals countries in Western Europe and it has strong international trading links. Singapore's real GDP growth was nearly 7% before the financial crisis hit in 2008, which lowered the GDP growth significantly. However, overall Singapore has a steady economy compared to other South East Asian countries, attracting investments with strong exports in pharmaceuticals, technology information and medical technology.

In early 2009, the Singaporean government already had plans to recover from the financial crisis and re-establish Singapore's position as South East Asia's financial and service hub, and it has done very well in regaining market strength, mostly through tourism and manufacturing. There was a 16% increase in GDP in comparison between the first quarter 2009 and first quarter 2010.

KEY FACTS: The Singaporean economy

GDP real growth 2009:	3.1%
GDP per capita 2009:	US\$53,200
Labour force 2009:	3.01 million
Unemployment rate:	2.1%
Major sectors of occupation:	Services, including Tourism (79.2%), Industry, including Manufacturing (20%)
Main trading partners:	Malaysia, Indonesia, China, USA, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea.

KEY FACTS: The Singaporean graduate labour market

Average age at graduation:	23 years
Average graduate starting salaries 2009:	US\$20,135 annually
Average working week:	Monday to Friday, maximum 44 hours (full-time)
Holiday entitlement:	Annual leave depends on years of service plus 11 days of national holidays

Benefits

Benefits of a UK qualification

Possibly the largest benefit which all international students receive when studying at one of the over 100 universities in the UK, is the fact that UK universities have some of the most renowned and prestigious histories of higher education in the world. Even if a graduate does not study at one of the more famous institutions, the graduate can return to their home country safe in the knowledge that no matter where they look for work, their qualifications will be highly respected. This is also useful in job interview situations, in which your study in the UK can come into conversation as a point of interest and as an example of experience in situations of teamwork, cultural awareness, when possibly you were outside of your comfort zone.

Furthermore, your experiences in writing and reading English are extremely valuable in the job market. As an added benefit, you will no doubt have been exposed to a variety of accents and dialects during your study stay, making you more open to the English language than you may have realised.

Case study:

When I got to my place I would be living for a year, it was a bit of a culture shock and took several months to get used to. But I think it is the same with most things, the more you put in, the more you get out. I threw myself into everything I could, making new friends and contacts along the way. On my return home I found that I had a new sense of confidence in dealing with people, one which was in my attitude at my job interviews, and with my good diploma I think certain helped a great deal in finding a place on a graduate scheme in the banking sector

Benefits

Graduating: Searching for work

Not long ago, student life and job finding was a far simpler procedure. Graduates would simply leave university, either looking for work through friends and family, a large company or a local business, and often step into a full-time job after an interview. These days, a wider variety of options exist which match the wider variety of jobs and the ease of travel which is available to the worldly student. As the number of students increases, so does the quality of the competition. It's tough out there. Many graduates having just left university know this, whilst others are soon to find out. Since so many new university leavers have a career path in mind which they may have had for many years, the competition is fierce in many of the desirable graduate schemes. This is more the case in the UK than almost anywhere else. However, one benefit which you as an international student have is that you have a home country to which you can return.

The lack of vacancies in the UK has led to many British students leaving for work further afield, often with little experience of the language in that country outside of the native English speaking countries. For example, in China whilst there are some international companies which accept English-only students, the vast majority will prefer a candidate with some basic Chinese.

It can be difficult to come across vacancies in graduate jobs, full-time occupation is hard to find without experience and most find that internships can involve heavy competition. All is not lost however! Most graduates find that the main issue is simply knowing where to look, and this guide hopes to point you in the right direction.

Check out the '**More Information**' section to see handy links with tips and advice in the search for work.

Main routes to employment

Getting started

As a graduate looking for work in Singapore, you should use a variety of strategies to stay updated with the newest jobs.

Online recruitment and vacancy websites:

- Best Jobs: www.bestjobs.com.sg/
- Career Compass: <http://app.careercompass.gov.sg/front/home.aspx>
- JobsDB: www.jobsdb.com.sg/Singapore
- Jobstreet: www.jobstreet.com/
- Monster: www.monster.com.sg/
- SingaporeJobsonline: www.singaporejobsonline.com/
- Singapore Job Search: www.sgjobsearch.com/

Social networking

Social networking has become an increasingly common and important part of seeking work, especially with the social media generation. Sites such as Facebook.com and LinkedIn.com have flourished into everyday use for graduates and employers alike, in order to find the right person for the job. Graduates looking for work in their home nation may already be aware of the value of such sites, and may be aware of specific sites which are specialised in their own country. Graduates can place details of themselves including their job experience, education level, home/current university as well as a photo if preferred. On some of these sites they can also search for jobs according to their specific interest or area of study. What is clear is that graduates should certainly take the time to discover the potential job opportunities which these sites offer, both socially and at a socio-professional level. The following list of examples is not exhaustive, and contains websites with varying emphasis on professionalism and social networking.

Main routes to employment

Sites worth checking out (global):

- www.cmypitch.com
- www.ecademy.com
- www.efactor.com
- www.facebook.com
- www.Linkedin.com
- www.myspace.com
- www.plaxo.com
- www.spoke.com
- www.ryze.com
- www.ziggs.com

Newspapers can also be a helpful source when it comes to job-hunting. The weekend editions often have a special recruitment section and are filled with vacancies.

Key newspapers to look for:

- Berita Harian
- Lianhe Zhaobao
- The Business Times
- The Strait Times

Many vacancies are not actually advertised in newspapers or magazines. Therefore, the use of alternative sources, persistency and well developed detection skills will help you to discover the hidden jobs.

Main routes to employment

Graduate jobs/Careers Fairs

An interesting way of finding work or further education is through graduate fairs. With varying focuses in each event, graduates can find themselves coming face to face with companies of interest, and may even find interest in something which was not previously considered.

Graduate fairs are also a good opportunity to find out about graduate schemes being offered by companies and what these entail.

Many fairs offer other facilities such as CV workshops, letter writing tuition and a chance to network with individuals representing companies of differing sizes and reputations, thus they can offer a good learning opportunity even if you struggle to find a company suited to you.

Many universities in the UK hold their own fairs near the end of the spring/summer term and throughout the summer, so it is well worth getting involved and putting yourself out there.

There may also be fairs in your home country, whether a national event or a university which is local to you, so keep your eyes and ears open.

You may find the following websites useful for locating fairs:

- www.careerseries.com.sg Career & Education 2010/2011
- www.ntu.edu.sg Nanyang Technological University of Singapore
- www.nus.edu.sg Singapore National University
- www.singaporejobfair.com A site with affiliation to many Singaporean fairs
- www.smu.edu.sg Singapore Management University

The main source for vacancies, information and tips concerning job applications in Singapore is the Internet. When searching the Internet for job offers and vacancies, it is advisable to bookmark web pages and re-visit them regularly. Make use of email alert services offered by online resources to stay updated with the newest jobs.

Alternative sources of information on jobs and companies:

- Singapore Business Directory: www.12zsingapore.com
- Times Business: www.timesbusinessdirectory.com
- The Yellow Pages: www.yellowpage.com.sg is both online and in print and offers business information

Main routes to employment

When looking for a job, it is important to extend your network of contacts in Singapore. Let your relatives, friends, former professors and teachers, neighbours and other acquaintances know that you are searching for a job and tell them what kind of job or position you are looking for. Try to attend careers fairs, and join professional networks connected both with your university (such as alumni networks) as well as online professional networking sites, to help you get in touch with valuable contacts.

It is advisable to register with any employment agency up to one year before the date of your return to Singapore. Applications for a specific role, however, should be sent no sooner than one month before your scheduled arrival back in the Singapore.

The right skills and competencies

The multicultural society in Singapore encourages employers to look for open minded employees. Your educational background and communication skills are important for getting a job. Having studied in the UK is a significant additional strength, so draw attention to your international study experience. And remember, the 'Time is Money' attitude adopted by many in the Singaporean business world is extremely important, so an efficient working style and appropriate core skills should be highlighted.

Most wanted:

- A positive attitude is very much desired.
- Strong communication and negotiation skills.
- Being open, honest and respectful.
- Leadership qualities as well as the ability to work in a team.
- Time management and organisational skills.
- Employers generally evaluate also a candidate's personal fit with the prospective organisation.

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Main routes to employment

The application letter

A letter of application should evoke the recruiter's attention. It should make the potential employer want to look at your application in more detail, to read your résumé and hopefully invite you for an interview. Precision, straightforwardness and honesty are critical when writing your application letter in Singapore. Your letter should explain your motivation for applying and whilst portraying the competencies and skills you have gained during your studies, through previous work experience or elsewhere.

Usually an application letter is divided into three sections. First, mention the vacancy you are applying for and where you found the vacancy, as well as your highest qualification or academic achievement. In the second section, give concrete examples of your education and experiences; show enthusiasm but avoid empty phrases. In the last paragraph, mention your résumé and the other supporting documents you are including with your application, such as:

- A recent photo
- Copies of educational qualification certificates
- Testimonials
- A record of your extracurricular activities (could also be included in the résumé itself)
- Copy of your passport/birth certificate

Do not forget to thank the reader for his/her attention and try to ensure your respect for the reader is apparent throughout.

The résumé

The résumé is a tool which you can use to secure an interview with the employer; it is a way of marketing yourself. It should not be more than three pages long, and should usually be in reverse chronological order, so that your most recent experiences and education/ employment are at the beginning. Your résumé should list your personal details, education and employment history, relevant skills, qualifications, and extracurricular activities.

With regard to personal information, name, date of birth, gender, marital status and number of children (if any) can be provided as well as contact details such as telephone, email and mobile phone details. This information is not all necessary but may be used and is usually placed at the top of the first page. The subject of referees is usually kept until the end of the document, stating that referees are available on request. A passport-sized photo may also be attached, but is usually not necessary.

Main routes to employment

Digital applications

Digital application forms have become more common in recent years in Singapore. The Internet is considered a fast medium of communication but completing an application form online requires the utmost attention – always check your submission before pressing send. If you are making your application via email, write a concise application email with your résumé attached. Applicants should always remember to use formal language when submitting an online application or applying via email.

The job interview

During the application procedure it is essential to make a good impression; make sure you are open and truthful throughout your application. Singaporean employers like to talk about your hobbies and extracurricular activities as it will help them to form a better idea of you as a person and thus as a prospective candidate. See it as a chance to improve your chances, not as a risk of losing credibility.

As cultural sensitivity is highly valued, highlight your international study experience. Remember, Singaporean employers appreciate openness, honesty and respect; highlighting your international experience is a good thing, but bragging about it is not recommended.

Preparing for the interview:

- Think in advance about questions that might be asked.
- Find out the objectives of the position and the skills required.
- Research the organisation's background.
- Be clear about your skills, abilities, personal qualities and experience.
- Prepare your own questions to ask the employer.
- Make sure you will arrive on time for the interview. If you are unfamiliar with the location it might be worthwhile making sure in advance.

Entrance tests in Singapore are not common; however, make sure you prepare yourself if they are announced during the process. These tests are usually related to general abilities, aptitudes and interests related to the job in question.

At times, employers might conduct group interviews, although one to one interviews are more common. It is advisable to enquire about the structure and process of the interview in advance.

Where will your career take you?

Research from the i-graduate International Student Barometer study tells us the following about the main career drivers for Singaporean graduates:

Major career drivers for Singaporean graduates:

1. I want to develop myself.
2. I like to be recognized for my achievements.
3. Future job security is important to me.

©International Student Barometer Summer 2009

Top 3 future plans of Singaporean students about to graduate from UK HE Institutions:

1. Employment in Singapore.
2. Undecided.
3. Further study at another institution in another country.

©International Student Barometer Summer 2009

The Singaporean government not only encourages the growth of the private sector, but also has a special project to keep the economy stable. Private entrepreneurship tends to be less popular among young people because of the prejudice towards failure in the Singaporean culture.

Steady jobs are the most sought after, which does leave opportunities for the more brave and entrepreneurial types among job seekers to do well or have the opportunity to 'go it alone'.

Current career prospects

Singapore has concentrated its economic efforts into the development of service and high-tech industries. Due to the fact Singapore is an island-state with almost no natural resources compared to its neighbouring countries, the focus on industry and service instead of agriculture has made the country a distributor and innovation hub in the region.

Where are the opportunities?

Accounting and finance

Highly developed and growing industries make Singapore a major South East Asia financial centre. Accountancy work is generally understood as a good way to enter the finance sector. Current work opportunities are available mainly in the fields of investment banking, payment systems, retail banking, private equity and venture capital, insurance and funds management. Despite falling upon hard times during the worldwide financial crisis, Singapore has rebounded well.

Advanced manufacturing

More than 1000 highly skilled researchers and around 45 companies are involved in advanced manufacturing in Singapore. Large investments from both the private sector and government have encouraged prospects for the sector throughout the economic crisis, particularly in the field of nanotechnology, intelligent systems, precision engineering and alternative energy.

Architecture, planning and construction

Construction was one of Singapore's leading industries in terms of growth in 2009. Big construction projects such Marina Bay Circuit, new Changi Terminal III, Resort Worlds at Sentosa Island and the Sports Hub have created many job opportunities in this sector in the past. However, this sector did suffer at the hands of the global financial crisis, and is still far from fully recovered.

Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology

Singapore has built seven research institutes and five research consortia to accelerate drug discovery research. Most of the international pharmaceuticals and biotechnology organisations have their Asia-Pacific headquarter in Singapore, and thus it is an important country for this field.

Current career prospects

Health and medical care

In 2006, health and medical care drew more than 400,000 foreign visitors to Singapore. Singaporean employers usually guarantee medical treatment for employees through schemes such as Medisave, Medifund, Medishield and Eldersshield, making the healthcare sector a large employer. It seeks to employ only the most skilled and promising staff, and will match this considerable desire with considerable payment for suitable employees.

ICT and e-commerce

Intelligence Nation 2015 is the ten year programme to maximize the potential of the information and communication technology in Singapore. Starting in 2005, the aim is for every individual in Singapore to have access to intellectual technology by 2015. With this vision, Singapore wants to become a leader in digital businesses and information technology through improving their grass-roots level communication technology skills. The government has also set robust intellectual property protection to encourage research and innovation in the information technology industry.

Logistic and supply chain management

Singapore has one of the best seaports and airports for cargo in South East Asia. The port of Singapore is the second largest port in the world after Shanghai. 21 of 25 top level third party logistic companies have their regional headquarters in Singapore. Work opportunities lie particularly in the field of sea and air freight, supply chain management, material management and logistical management.

Mining and energy

Singapore is the third largest refining centre in the world with a total production of approximately 1.4 million barrels per day. Work opportunities lie particularly in the fields of mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and piping works.

Tourism and travel

Singapore's shopping district, well-developed infrastructure, warm and consistent climate, safe atmosphere and major sporting events combined with the English speaking population make it highly attractive for foreign visitors. Job opportunities particularly lie in the field of hospitality management, marketing, as well as hospitality in general terms.

Where to find more information

General information

www.edb.gov.sg EDB Singapore, 250 North Bridge Road #28-00 Raffles City Tower Singapore 179101

www.gov.sg Access to Singaporean Government information and services

www.mom.gov.sg Ministry of Manpower Singapore, 18 Havelock Road, Singapore 059764
Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore, 100 High Street #09-01 the Treasury Singapore 179434, Tel: (+65) 6225-9911

Advice and tips on Careers Fairs, CVs and general job seeking

www.articlealley.com/article_1547972_36.html - An article for those in the nursing profession.

www.collegegrad.com/articles/dont-give-up.shtml - An article on staying positive throughout the work search process

www.employmentblawg.com/2010/job-seeking-tips-for-college-graduates - Further tips in the competitive field of employment seeking graduates

www.fpef.org/Education/Tips.htm - Some good tips on networking

www.thegraduate.co.uk/static_generic.cgi?a=tmq_jobboards – Link with good information for those still considering staying in the UK after study

www.graduateopportunities.com/career_advice/graduates_with_disability - A link providing useful tips and stats for graduates with a disability

www.londongradfair.co.uk/autumn - The Guardian's annual job fair for graduates. It is located in London.

www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article1277.html - Tips on how to work out your finances post-study.

www.online-graduate.co.uk/tipsforgrads.html - Further tips for graduates seeking work experience.

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/international_students.htm - Information for international students

Where to find more information

Books and Articles

Finding work in Singapore; XpatXperience; www.xpatxperience.com

Country Guides for International Students series updated by Expertise in Labour Mobility, Summer 2010

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Disclaimer

Whilst all efforts have been made to ensure the information in this Country Guide is correct at the time of writing, readers are advised that procedures and information sources may change regularly.

Appendix 1 : Sample CV

Soo Yin Kim

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Singapore 0718

☎+65 331 22 44

@ sykim@freemail.com

Nationality: Singaporean

Date of birth: 12-2-1965

Gender: female

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1998 | University of California
M.B.A. |
| 1990 | National University of Singapore
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration |

WORK EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1998 - present | Financial / Business Consultant
Jones & Associates, Singapore
∇ Clients include companies in video production, public storage, software sales, property management/development.
∇ Provide expertise in setting up business operations, computerised and accounting systems, creation of marketing and business strategies. |
| 1994-1998 | Financial Consultant
Comway Group Consulting, Los Angeles, California, USA
∇ Provide expertise in setting up business operations. |

Appendix 1 : Sample CV

∇ Set-up administrative, accounting systems and business start-up advertising.

1990-1994

Financial Officer

First Security Group, Singapore

SKILLS AND TRAINING

Computer skills: Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and HTML

Languages Spoken: Malay, Chinese and English

Languages Written: Malay, Chinese, English and French

ACTIVITIES AND HOBBIES

Board member of EWI Singapore.

Avid horsewoman