

Gap Year Experiences

(804) 289-8547 | careerservices.richmond.edu

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Drop-in Hours: M-F, 2 to 4 p.m.



Alumni & Career Services

What are the benefits of a Gap Year?

- Catalyst to professional/career direction
- Adding dimension to your resume
- Gaining self-confidence and independence
- Exposure to new people and cultures

There are a variety of avenues to take a Gap Year:

1. **Short-term and seasonal work:** Many opportunities for short-term work exist either in the US or overseas - working as national parks staff members, summer camp, ranch or resort staff, wait staff, au pairs/nannies, agricultural workers, short-term clerical jobs, just to name a few. In order to work overseas, both BUNAC and CIEE will help you obtain a short term work visa for a fee (\$40-\$250), and put you in touch with options for housing and employment, but it is up to you to find a job.
2. **National Service (USA) or Volunteer Service Opportunities:** National and volunteer service programs address compelling community issues in education, public safety, health and human needs, the environment, and more. Teach for America, AmeriCorps, City Year, and Learn and Serve America, Jesuit and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and Cross Cultural Solutions (just to name a few) all have a track record of mobilizing community resources, and helping to develop an ethic of service and leadership skills.
3. **Teaching English abroad:** Lots of opportunities exist for teaching English as a second, or foreign, language. However, being a native English speaker is not enough to qualify you. Most opportunities will require a Bachelor's degree and a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Certificate. The good news is that TEFL certificates can be acquired in as few as four weeks (100-120 classroom hours).
4. **Fellowships – research and teaching:** Opportunities for extended research, teaching, and travel exist through programs like the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Fellowship. The Fulbright Program creates a context to provide a better understanding of U.S. views and values, promotes more effective bi-national cooperation and nurtures open-minded, thoughtful leaders, both in the U.S. and abroad, who can work together to address common concerns. Check out <http://fellowships.richmond.edu/> for more ideas.
5. **International Development work:** The opportunities within international development are extremely varied, and include everything from the Peace Corps to the World Bank and the United Nations to small NGOs working toward poverty relief or economic sustainability.
6. **Travel:** Look outside of your hometown, state, and maybe even country to have a unique experience. Check out GOINGGLOBAL and USA Guides from the homepage of your SpiderConnect account.

Short-Term & Seasonal Work Resources

- Any Work Anywhere: <https://anyworkanywhere.com/>
- Coolworks.com – summer jobs and seasonal jobs in great places: <https://www.coolworks.com/>
- Intern Abroad: <https://www.goabroad.com/intern-abroad>
- Jobs Abroad: <https://jobs.goabroad.com/>
- Mike's Bike Tours (Munich, Amsterdam): <http://www.mikesbiketours.com>
- My World Abroad: <https://myworldabroad.com/>
- Transitions Abroad: <https://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/careers/index.shtml>

National Service/Volunteer Service Resources

- Alliance Abroad: <https://www.allianceabroad.com/>
- Americorps –VISTA, NCCC, State & National: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ Americorps>
- American Jewish World Service: <https://ajws.org/>
- BUNAC: <https://www.bunac.org/usa>

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National Service/Volunteer Service Resources continued

- Cross Cultural Solutions: <https://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/>
- Lutheran Volunteer Corps – working for peace and justice: <http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org>
- United Planet: <https://www.unitedplanet.org/>
- Africa Development Corps: <https://www.aidforafrica.org/member-charities/africa-development-corps/>
- Volunteers for Peace: <https://vfp.org/>
- Volunteer Abroad: <https://www.goabroad.com/volunteer-abroad>
- Volunteers in Asia: <https://viaprograms.org/>
- Volunteer Match: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- World Endeavors: <https://www.worldendeavors.com/>

Teaching English & Other Subjects Abroad

- AASSA (South America): <https://www.aassa.com/index.cfm>
- Council on International Education Exchange: <https://www.ciee.org/>
- Dave's ESL Café: <http://www.eslcafe.com/>
- English First: <https://www.englishfirst.com/>
- European Council of International Schools: <https://www.ecis.org/>
- Footprints Recruiting: <http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/>
- International Schools Services: <https://www.iss.edu/>
- JET - Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme: <http://jetprogramme.org/en/>
- Joy Jobs: <http://www.joyjobs.com/>
- Language Corps: <https://www.languagecorps.com/>
- Oxford TEFL Program: <https://www.oxfordtefl.com/>
- Teach Abroad: <https://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad>
- TeachAway (Asia, Europe, Middle East, South America, Africa): <https://www.teachaway.com/>
- TESOL: <https://www.tesol.org/>
- TIE Online: <https://www.tieonline.com/default.cfm?>
- WorldTeach: <https://worldteach.org/>

International Development Resources

- Amigos International (Latin America): <https://amigosinternational.org/>
- DevNetJobs: <http://www.devnetjobs.org/>
- Expatica: <https://www.expatica.com/>
- Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD): <http://www.fsdinternational.org/>
- One World Center: <https://oneworldcenter.org/>
- InterExchange Christianson Grant: <https://www.interexchange.org/foundation/christianson-grant/>
- NAFSA Career Center: <https://jobregistry.nafsa.org/jobseekers/>
- US Agency for International Development (USAID): <https://www.usaid.gov/>