

## Learn to Describe North American Work Culture

*This list of North American traits will help you see your culture objectively.*

1. Goal-oriented, hard-working, career-focused, law-abiding.
2. Professional & personal lives are totally separate.
3. Polite, but not necessarily friendly. Hospitality is not top of mind.
4. A belief in social equality and upward social mobility.
5. A respect for personal space in public and professional settings.
6. Individualistic. Focused on efficiency and often impatient with groups.
7. Debate is generally avoided.
8. Assertive. Formal communication is valued. Decisions tend to be final.
9. Punctual. The belief that time is money prevails in North America.
10. Problems are solved step-by-step, rather than intuitively.
11. Results-focused culture, geared toward decisive action, the elimination of problems and a constant increase of efficiency.

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## Boost Your Career While You're Abroad

*The strategies below have real-world career value.*

1. **Organize something!** Whether it's a group outing, cross-cultural get-together or student event, coordinating something abroad proves to future employers that you took initiative, challenged yourself and behaved like a leader.
2. **Do more than you planned:** If you're abroad to study, take on an internship. Extend your stay to volunteer, learn the language, or travel. Expand your experience!
3. **Network with professionals:** Reach out to professionals in your industry while you're abroad. Meet with them and see what they can teach you about your field.
4. **Keep your career in mind:** Be on the lookout for career-boosting experiences. Join professionally-focused extra-curricular activities, learn to describe your host culture in detail, participate in local events. Do it all.

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## How to Find International Work

*Use the outlines below to determine your ideal job search model.*

### Country of Choice (Low-Skilled Jobs Abroad)

- For casual jobs (e.g. waiting tables, teaching English) it's possible to target your country of choice and find a position. Focus on getting a working vacation visa, a student visa or finding an informal job.
- This approach is excellent for building basic international skills & experience.

### Industry of Choice (Professional International Jobs)

- Having an "international" job doesn't always involve living abroad. The model of employees moving from country to country is becoming rare.
- If you want to land a career-track international position, avoid the country-specific job search. Foreign companies rarely hire North American grads and work visas are hard to get.
- Target North American organizations and businesses working internationally in your industry. Focus on landing a job with one of these companies.

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