WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

The UNM International Studies describes their program as, “an interdisciplinary major and minor that draws on the courses, faculty, and resources of a large number of UNM departments and colleges, with a central orientation toward contemporary global themes and different world areas.” The unique elements of UNM International Studies major and minor is the flexibility, which “allow students to combine studies in languages, humanities, and social sciences with studies in fields as fine arts, architecture and planning, and education in order to creating an integrated, interdisciplinary undergraduate concentration.” Employers in a variety of industries, including local or international business, education, non-profits, and government organizations, seek out qualified graduates who have personal and professional understanding, and skills developed in an International Studies program to embrace with the new global economy.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required; however, many employers also require graduate school. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM International Studies Program offers a Bachelor’s of Arts in International Studies as well as an undergraduate minor.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Careers
- United States Department of State
- International Business
  - Management, human resources, labor relations, banking & finance, economics, international Development, real estate, sales, marketing, product management, healthcare administration, agricultural, economics
- International Relations/Government
  - International law, diplomacy, foreign affairs, public service, institutional/community develop
- Nonprofit/Government
  - Human services provision, public health, disaster/disease Relief, policy development, program administration, program evaluation, volunteer coordination
- Language Services/Education
  - Teaching, curriculum development, interpreting, translating, research and writing, international student, support services, study abroad programming
- Journalism
  - Foreign news correspondence, international broadcasting, reporting, editorial/column writing, investigative journalism, research, photography, freelance work

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
- Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area; consider the UNM National Security Studies Program.
- Learn at least one additional language.
- Spend a semester studying abroad.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in international internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Research firms with international interests.
• Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find more organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and/or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
• Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
• Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
• Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
• Obtain experience with a campus newspaper or media.
• Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
• Make sure to research organizational values in order to match with your own value set. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and are committed to work for them.

WHO HIRE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJORS?
United Nations, National Security Council, US Peace Corps, US Foreign Service, USAID, Armed Services, FBI, CIA, Teach for America, VISTA/AmeriCorps, relief organizations, religious organizations, nonprofit/NGOs, consulting firms, educational institutions, private voluntary organizations, international organizations – humanitarian organizations, defense contractors, overseas English language institutes and international schools, foreign news agencies, international newspapers, domestic and foreign corporations, multinational firms, International marketing, trade, and real estate firms – and MANY more….

WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?
USA Jobs (official job site of the federal government) www.usajobs.gov
Idealist.org (comprehensive site of international nonprofit opportunities) http://www.ideal.org/
UNM Student Organizations Links
Chinese Student Friendship Association
India Students Association
Turkish Student Association

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
http://oneline.org
http://www.bls.gov/

REFERENCE