



US-Specific Job Search Tips for International Students

- **Network, network, network**
 - Personal connections are one of the best ways for students to find out about jobs and get hired.
 - Campus Recruiting Events: When you receive an EOC Career Center email about Job Fair or other company recruiting events, attend and talk to the company representatives.
 - Student Organizations: Get involved with student organizations, especially professional or engineering-specific orgs, to build your peer and employer contacts.
 - LinkedIn: Use LinkedIn to connect with Texas Tech alumni at the companies you are targeting, especially former international students.
- **Research and apply to international employee friendly employers**
 - [Job Grid](#): Employers are asked to indicate whether permanent US Work Authorization is required for their company on job postings and in their Job Fair registration. You will not see thousands of postings; however, postings on Job Grid are targeted to Texas Tech students.
 - [Myvisajobs.com](#): This is a great resource to see which employers have petitioned for H-1Bs in the past. Companies that have petitioned in the past may be more likely to do so in the future.
 - [US Department of Labor H-1B Data](#): Reports from the Office of Labor Certification will list the top 10 employers sponsoring for H-1B and top occupations for H-1B by state.
 - [Career Shift](#): This job search site is available through Texas Tech and will allow you to search jobs all over the web with a sponsorship filter available.
 - [TTU OIA](#): The Office of International Affairs and your Advisor within the office will be a great resource for you. Attend workshops through the OIA and talk to your Advisor for additional tips and information.
 - Other Online/Print Resources: <http://www.goinglobal.com/>; <https://www.internationalstudent.com/jobsearch/>; <https://uniworldonline.com/search/>; “Power Ties” by Dan Beaudry
- **Improve your communication skills**
 - Strong English language written and verbal skills, non-verbal communication skills, and interpersonal skills are crucial for success in your job search. Get involved in student organizations and take advantage of campus resources like the Writing Center, EOC Critiques and Workshops, and Etiquette Dinners to improve your communication skills.
- **Become familiar with US style applications and hiring processes**
 - Online Resources: Go to the [TTU Engineering Career Resources Page](#) to use Resume, Cover Letter, Job Fair Prep and Interview Prep resources.
 - In-Person Resources: Attend workshops on all the above topics and more for in-depth information on recruiting processes in the US. The schedule of upcoming workshops will be on [Job Grid](#).
 - Be aware that US employers may not be familiar with universities and companies in a different country on your resume. Be ready to clarify.
- **Start early and develop a back-up plan**
 - Job searching for all students should start immediately upon arrival to campus. Start making connections with employers, faculty, staff, and students right away to ensure a strong network. Start applying for jobs early since many full-time offers can be issued several months before the start date.
 - Expand your pool of opportunities by applying for jobs in the US and your home country (potentially a third or fourth country as well). Be open to exploring where your education and experience are in demand.



- **Understand your work authorization and employment visa options**
 - [TTU OIA](#): The Office of International Affairs and your Advisor within the office will have the best and most current information on your work visa options. Attend workshops through the OIA and talk to your Advisor regularly. **Do not accept any opportunities without first talking to your ISSS Advisor.**
 - Be aware of what US employers may not know. Be able to confidently, concisely, and accurately explain your visa situation and options when asked.
- **Get involved and build your resume**
 - Although strong grades are important, they are not the only factor employers consider during interview processes. US employers value leadership experience, extracurricular activities, and professional experience as well as academic success.
 - Especially as engineering students, there are many ways to gain experience and strengthen your resume from a technical perspective. Work experiences like internships and research are great, but you can build a strong resume with class/student org projects and personal projects as well.
- **Stay positive and be resilient**
 - Job searching is hard. Everyone faces rejection in the job search, and it is okay to feel disappointed when you receive a rejection or don't hear back from a company. Remember, it only takes one yes to get an opportunity. A rejection does not diminish your past accomplishments nor predict your success in the future.
 - You cannot control federal or employer hiring policies, but you can control your effort, excellency in your applications, and your attitude. Stay positive and keep pushing forward.

IMPORTANT NOTE

There is no perfect time to reveal your immigration status to employers. Although it is not usually recommended to have your immigration status listed on your resume or LinkedIn profile, what is important is that international students: 1) Respond honestly and clearly about their immigration status and work authorization eligibility when asked; and 2) ensure the topic is discussed before an interview process with a company ends or progresses past a first or second interview.