**Why is working abroad so popular?**



Working abroad is already a popular choice for many people. Indeed, last year 207,000 British people left the country permanently or semi-permanently. So why is working abroad so popular? It presents many significant advantages, especially if you are working in a niche academic subject and are struggling1 to find work in your home country. With the economy becoming more unstable, working abroad may well become the only option for some who wants to work in a specific field. Even a short stint abroad can be beneficial - it can have advantages for your long term career, and it can expand your cultural horizons.

**Foreign culture**

Moving to a new country to live is a wholly different experience to going there on holiday. Getting used to a new way of life, new people and a new culture takes time and effort. However, by most people’s admission, this is one of the most enjoyable aspects of moving abroad. Try to soak up2 the experience and learn from it. As well as having a new culture, you will have new places to visit and even possibly a new language to learn.

David, who moved to Japan four years ago, couldn't speak a word of Japanese when he first arrived. Having thrown himself into the cultural experience of the island, he now speaks Japanese fluently. "When I first came to Japan I wasn't sure how things would work out, but having attained some proficiency in the language I can say it is one of the most rewarding3 aspects of moving to a new country", he says.

**Forging a successful career away from home**

Moving to a new country can open up career opportunities that you may not have thought of. Try to be aware of the industry climate in the country and look for chances to progress. If your intention when going was only to stay for a short time keep an open mind and see what things come your way. Building up a network in your new location may have advantages for your present career, and could be useful later on.

Moving abroad doesn't mean you are annexed from the people and places you have known before, though. The internet is a perfect catalyst for international communication thanks to Skype, e-mail and instant messengers. Keeping in touch with family and friends will help if you suffer from homesickness, and maintaining links with colleagues and your network in your home country will keep you abreast of what’s happening in the industry. Also, if your work abroad isn't as successful as you had hoped, a strong network can help you to find work if you want to return.

So, where are you moving to? Take the time to look around your new locale and enjoy what it has to offer. Make the best of the new experiences at hand, both in and outside of work.

by Ben Davies

*http://www.jobs.ac.uk*

*1to struggle: avoir des difficultés à*

*2to soak up (fig.): absorber*

*3rewarding: gratifiant*