

TOP 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD DO...

For a Successful and Engaged International Public Service Career

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1) Discover and develop your standpoint

You obviously need to know the essential fields and concepts in international development management, international relations and global policy analysis. However, you can learn even better by selecting early on your standpoint and field of specialization. This will definitely help you during your study, but it will also help you in defining your career. *What is your focus area and concern?*

2) Learn practical international management skills

There are three main sets of skills that must be in your toolkit: 1) Grant writing, 2) Project management and 3) Program evaluations. You will learn from your study and few methods and experiment a few tools, but you will most probably learn these from work, practice and specialized training certifications. Specifically try to learn government grant writing, international project management and participatory monitoring and evaluation. *What's in your international tool belt?*

3) Be an international entrepreneur and a global thinker

Beside those who actually create their own organizations and jobs, most careers in international public service require a degree of leadership and entrepreneurship. Grant based projects require people with inventiveness and good foundations on theories, analysis and pragmatism. *Do you have good ideas and multi-disciplinary perspectives that can tackle the world's most pressing problems?*

4) Keep yourself informed on international politics

You can foresee your career and future international jobs by just opening the newspaper. However, you need to be familiar with current events through alternative world news presenting diverse opinion and perspective in international politics. *Where and how do you get your world news?*

5) Prepare your internationally formatted curriculum vitae

You will need more than one resume or curriculum vitae. They need to be formatted according to various job requirements for example for the United Nations or the European Union (EuroPass). See the USAID recommendations for effective resumes. Prepare also an international biography of about 250 words with your official photo and contact information. You are the world most expert on yourself. *Are you ready to present yourself properly and to different audiences?*

6) Be culturally intelligent and know a second language

Cultural intelligence is a set of concrete competencies that would make you open and capable to effectively relate with culturally diverse worlds. Language is an essential element for effectively entering into a culture. You need to acquire essential interpersonal and intercultural competencies for communication, negotiation, human resource management and establishing international partnerships. Intercultural competence and cultural intelligence are essential for a sustained and cross-culturally engaged career. *Did you ever get lost in translation?*

7) International / intercultural professional and management experience

Travelling abroad is good but not enough. Study abroad programs are also a good experience but insufficient to demonstrate a professional background with some management capability and organizational involvement. Focus on your internships and other professional development opportunities in key organizations or areas relevant to your career. *Do you have a career mentor or leadership coach?*

8) Build your professional international network and manage your profile

You are incredibly lucky. You have various social networking tools at your disposition. However, you FB, LinkedIn, Twitter, Blogger profiles and information may be working against you if not properly managed. Make sure to have your profile on more professional site such as DevEx or Idealist. These, however, do not substitute the good old way of networking through conference participation and volunteering in internationally related projects. You probably live in a global city like Chicago. Make good use of these resources. *Are you integrating your learning with co-curricula activities?*

9) Learn how to write and speak... professionally

Professional writing is essential for a career in international public service. So it is your ability to develop concepts, formulate plans and express your ideas verbally, in discussions and debates. Take advantage of the writing, presentations and interactive learning opportunities during your study and never stop enhancing these skills. *What do you do to enhance your writing and speaking skills?*

10) Be safe but risk a little...

Most work in the international field will be come more and more linked to human emergencies and human securities. Development projects will most likely be in post-conflict contexts, often linked to violent and instable situations. Be prepared to operate in not so safe environments. *Are mentally, physically and spiritually prepared to work in dangerous international fields?*