

Relocating to a New Community

As you prepare for life after graduation, you may be considering relocating to a new city or region of the country. While relocating can be a rewarding experience, it can also pose challenges. Launching a job search from hundreds of miles away requires a bit more effort, but when you are settled into your new place, it can be worth it! To ease your search, keep the following tips in mind:

Do Research on the City

Certain areas of the country may sound like very exciting places to live, but remember to take cost of living into consideration. As an example, a studio apartment in San Francisco can cost upwards of \$1,900 per month. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is traffic like?
- Will you enjoy the climate?
- Is public transportation available?
- What is the cost of living?
- What cultural and entertainment options are available?
- Do you have a support system nearby?

Some of these questions may not be as important to you, but it is still a good idea to do your homework. There are many websites that can help you find out all of the details about any city: www.bestplaces.net or www.findyourspot.com are two examples.

Research the Job Market

Different parts of the country may be known for different types of industries and/or employers. Having an idea of the employment scene will not only help you find a job or internship, but may also help you decide if the city is a good fit for you.

- Utilize GoinGlobal's website for information about job openings, career guides, and living conditions in different cities. <http://www.goinglobal.com/>.
- Check online newspapers to get a feel for what is available in other cities/states.
- Check out job search websites that allow you to search by city and keyword: www.indeed.com or www.glassdoor.com.
- If there is a college or university in the area, try checking their Career Services website for job opportunities.

Choose the Organization(s) You Want to Work For

- Make a list of the organizations that sound most interesting to you and the key people you will need to contact. Then do extra research on these organizations.
- Send out your cover letter and resume, but also follow-up with a phone call if you do not hear back after a week or two.
- Plan a trip to visit the city and schedule face-to-face interviews/meetings while there.

Have a Relocation Plan

Once you know where you want to go, you'll need a plan to get there. Packing up all of your worldly possessions and hitting the road may work well for some people, but it is not that easy for many people. Your plan should include:

- A timeline for your move. Avoid taking a gap between paychecks if at all possible.
- A relocation budget. Remember to factor in U-Haul costs, down payments on a place to live, gas costs, and any other moving expenses.
- A chance to visit the city before you move there. This will give you a feel for your new home and allow you a chance to meet people before you get there. Try to make two trips: one to conduct informational interviews, scout out the location and housing opportunities, and to get a feel for the city. Your second visit could consist of actual interviews and finalizing any details.

Network, Network, Network

This is a little trickier when you are trying to network from 1,000 miles away, but it can still be done. How do you get started? Establish a LinkedIn account to network with other professionals to identify individuals to contact. In addition, talk to everyone you know: friends, parents, relatives, faculty, staff members, friends of friends, friends of parents ... the list is endless. Every time you talk to someone, mention your desire to move to Fairbanks, AK or Miami, FL. You'd be surprised at the connections you may find!