



BEYOND YOUR BORDERS

How Expanded Experience Builds Your Competitive Edge

REFRAMING "BEYOND BORDERS"

"Beyond Borders" means any experience that took you outside your professional, geographic, or cultural comfort zone — you do NOT have to leave the country.

TYPE	EXAMPLES
Cultural	Serving diverse populations, multilingual environments, cross-cultural collaboration, underserved communities
Geographic	Out-of-state internships, regional practicums, international programs, remote work for distant employers
Cross-Sector	Healthcare → nonprofit, corporate → government, for-profit → education, volunteer to professional bridge

THE DATA: WHY EXPANDED EXPERIENCE MATTERS

- 66% of interns are more likely to receive a full-time job offer (NACE, 2024)
- Adaptability is a Top 5 skill employers seek — developed through cross-context experience (Yale OCS, 2023)
- 77% of MBA graduates report salary increases after roles leveraging cross-sector skills (GMAC, 2024)

Key Insight: Adaptability is the #1 competency differentiating high-potential graduate candidates. It is developed through experience in unfamiliar contexts, not through coursework (Yale School of the Environment, 2023).

TYPES OF EXPANDED EXPERIENCE

- **Out-of-State Internships & Practicums:** Any fieldwork, clinical rotation, or internship completed in a different state or region. Especially valuable for healthcare, social work, and education students.
- **Cross-Sector Volunteer Leadership:** Leading or coordinating volunteer programs across sectors — healthcare professional volunteering in nonprofit, business student serving on a community board.
- **Regional & Rural Experience:** Serving underserved or underrepresented geographic communities. Rural health practicums, Appalachian outreach, tribal community partnerships.
- **International Programs & Global Work:** Study abroad, international research collaborations, global virtual internships, humanitarian fieldwork. Demonstrates cross-cultural competency.

RESUME & CV BEST PRACTICES

Documenting Expanded Experience — Yale SOM & Harvard OCS Frameworks

S - Situation

Context: cross-cultural, cross-sector, or cross-geographic setting

A - Action

Specific transferable action YOU took in that unfamiliar environment

R - Result

Quantified or qualified result — impact on people, programs, or outcomes

- **Location Format:** Always list City, State explicitly — never assume the reader knows your organization's location (Yale SOM Resume Guide, 2022). For international: City, Country. For remote roles: list employer's HQ city, then note 'Remote' in parentheses.
- **Transferable Skills to Highlight:** Adaptability, Cross-cultural Communication, Resourcefulness, Problem-Solving, Initiative

INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK: STAR + EXPANDED CONTEXT

- **S - Situation:** Set the cross-context stage: "While completing my practicum in rural Sullivan County, where the nearest hospital was 45 minutes away..."
- **T - Task:** Name the specific challenge that required adaptation: "I was responsible for conducting initial mental health assessments with no supervising clinician on-site."
- **A - Action:** Describe YOUR specific actions — emphasize adaptability, resourcefulness, cross-cultural skill: "I developed a remote consultation protocol with the supervising psychiatrist and created a crisis resource card for patients."
- **R - Result:** Quantify or qualify impact: "Zero escalation incidents across 300+ patient contacts; protocol later adopted as standard practice."

Sample Questions: "Tell me about a time you adapted to an unfamiliar environment." | "Describe working with a population different from your own." | "Give an example of resourcefulness under constraint."

BUILDING EXPANDED EXPERIENCE NOW

- International Programs: USI's Office of Study Abroad & International Programs offers faculty-led trips, exchange programs, and global research partnerships. FAFSA aid can apply. usi.edu/global
- Virtual & Remote Internships: Remote internships with employers in other states count as geographic expanded experience. Platforms: Handshake, Parker Dewey, LinkedIn Remote Jobs — filter by 'remote' and 'graduate level.'
- USI Community Partnerships: Boys & Girls Club of Evansville, YWCA, Southwest Indiana Workforce Board actively seek graduate-level volunteers and project leaders. Contact the Career Success Center for introductions.
- Cross-Context Practicums: Request placements in underserved, rural, or culturally distinct communities. Talk to your program director — many have relationships with sites outside the Tri-State area.

COPILOT PROMPT: "I am a [program] graduate student at USI in Evansville, Indiana. Suggest 5 ways I can build expanded cross-context experience before graduation, including remote and local options."

7-Day Action Plan

- **Days 1-2:** Identify 1 expanded experience from your background. Draft 1 SAR bullet using the framework above.
- **Day 3:** Add location to all resume experience entries (City, State format).
- **Day 4:** Research 1 pathway from the Building Expanded Experience section above. Schedule an appointment with the Career Success Center.
- **Days 5-7:** Practice your STAR + Expanded Context story aloud. Time it: 90 seconds.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

LinkedIn Learning (free via myUSI) | Career Launch — filter by Remote/National | Parker Dewey — micro-internships | usi.edu/global — Study Abroad | USI Community Partnership Programs

KEY TAKEAWAY: You don't have to leave the country to build a globally competitive edge. Every cross-context experience you document, articulate, and leverage is an asset that sets you apart.

USI Career Success Center

Orr Center, Room 1051 | (812) 464-1865

Schedule an Appointment

usi.edu/career-success | Career Launch