

The U.S. Government recently announced that the U.S. travel ban is set to lift in November (exact date is to be confirmed). And the U.S. Consulate (Belfast) and the U.S. Embassy (Dublin) have stated it will be November, at least, before they restart J1 visa appointments so the earliest J1 visa start dates are likely to be in early January.

The USA, the original “Land of Opportunity”, is always a popular destination for Irish students and graduates. Every year sees thousands of young Irish going to live, work and travel in the United States. The employment situation is such that most Irish students work there under a J1 visa, where you can visit and take short term employment. The US is one of the world’s most powerful nations, however, it is currently facing the worst crises since the Great Depression and although officially out of recession with its economy growing at an annual rate of 2.3 % estimated in last quarter of 2016, it is important to note that the rate of unemployment reached:3.6% in May 2019 (Bureau of Economic Analysis www.bea.gov). This high unemployment rate is causing increased competition for jobs. If you do decide that the US is the place to go either on a J1 or something more permanent do your homework research and preparation before you go will pay off at a later date.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Accounting and finance** - the financial crisis ensured that jobs in these areas have been hard to come by. However, recent improvements in the economy indicate that there may be more jobs again in this area.
- **Aerospace** - this industry largely escaped the downturn mainly due to the continuous growth of the civil aircraft and military equipment.
- **Biotechnology** - is creating the most new work opportunities at the moment,
- Chemical manufacturing and pharmaceutical - opportunities lie particularly in bioinformatics and nanotechnology.
- **Construction** sectors - suffered badly due to the financial crisis and stimulus packages have been put in place to revitalize the sector
- **Health and medical care** - opportunities are mainly in R&D and medical practitioners.
- **ICT, computer design and telecommunication** - opportunities exist in programming, computer engineering, system analysis, data communication analysis and information engineering.

TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

- If you are going to the states as a student or other temporary non- immigrant (see visa section) it is most likely that you will end up working in tourism, sales or administration, and get a job in tourist resorts, amusement parks, hotels, country clubs, golf clubs, restaurants, bars, cafes, shops and offices. You are only allowed to temporary work on this visa, so it can be difficult to get a position of a professional nature or one related to your field of study. There are plenty of opportunities to spend a gap year in the States, with organisations such as BUNAC <https://www.bunac.org/uk> or Gap Year <https://www.goabroad.com/gap-year/search/united-states/gap-year-1> or Gapwork <http://www.gapwork.com/>

Internships are a great opportunity to get practical training in your field of study in another country. If you wish to do an internship with a U.S. employer you will require either an exchange visitor (J-1) or trainee (H-) visa <https://visa.graduateshotline.com/types-of-us-visa.html#.WMf7ddLyipo>. A useful website with information on how to find an internship in the USA is the CIEE website <https://www.ciee.org/>. CIEE is the Council on International Educational Exchange - the organisation which sponsors the J1 visa programmes it also, sponsors the J Internship visa for students undertaking a Cooperative Education placement in the USA.

Useful websites include:

The Washington - Ireland Programme of Service and Leadership allocates internships with a variety of governmental bodies, congressional offices, non-governmental agencies and professional companies, as well as undertaking a course in the principles of leadership candidates live for duration of eight weeks with an American host family. Further information and applications can be found at

<https://wiprogram.org/>

Post-Grad Work Experience Abroad with Enterprise Ireland: <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>
Mountbatten Internship Programme <https://www.mountbatten.org/>. Offers 12 month internships and training programmes in New York

The Fulbright Commission has information on US internships: <http://www.fulbright.ie/>

USA Internship: <https://www.internjobs.com/>

International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience: <https://iaeste.org/iaeste@leargas.ie>

Volunteering : can offer work experience, allowing you develop your skills, expand your network and develop contacts in your sector and help your employability. Check out: <https://www.bunac.org/usa> or <https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/via>

If you are travelling to the US on a more permanent basis it is worth noting that according to the Department of Labour <https://www.dol.gov/> the fastest growing occupations are in software engineering, science, medicine and health, environmental protection, community care facilities (i.e. for the elderly) and the computer industry. Prospects for foreign workers are best in the high technology fields and niche markets. US firms are at or near the forefront in technological advances, especially in computers and in medical, aerospace, and military equipment. Other major industries include chemicals, forestry, iron and steel, motor vehicles and textiles. The economy is overwhelmingly based on service industries, which now account for around 80% of national GDP.

HOW TO FIND A JOB

Using an Exchange Organisation

Several organisations offer programmes that help people find short-term work in the States. CIEE is the Council on International Educational Exchange - and sponsors the J1 visa programmes.

<https://www.ciee.org/> CIEE works in partnership with organisations such as USIT promoting

international work so if you are travelling with USIT <https://www.usit.ie/> or BUNAC

<https://www.bunac.org/usa> or any other International exchange organisation you will find they provide advice and assistance in pre-arranging work and accommodation. Their directories provide listings from employers wishing to employ summer/part-time staff and can help take a lot of stress out of job hunting. Work exchange programmes do vary widely in nature. Some programmes allow participants to do any job available; others are restricted to specific fields. For instance if you are interested in working with children either as an Au Pair or counsellor at a summer camp you need to contact an authorised Au Pair or summer camp organisation as organising such an exchange is not possible on your own.

Good sites are

- Camp Counsellors USA. CCUSA Ireland: <https://www.ccusa.ie/>
- **Cool Works:** <http://www.coolworks.com/>
- Au Pair Program : <https://www.aupairinamerica.com/>
- **International Au Pair Association (IAPA)** : <https://www.iapa.org/>

Networking

Many jobs are found through 'networking', the process of using contacts friends, colleagues, professional associations and industry contacts. News and announcements from Irish organizations serving the Irish community in the United States can be found through The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres: <http://ciic-usa.org/find-your-local-irish-center/> is a valuable source of information on all sorts of topics relating to working and living in the USA. It provides up to date information on the various categories of visa as well as details on employment opportunities.

To find out about Irish companies trading in the states or Irish companies with interests in the states it is worth checking out Enterprise Ireland <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/> also the local chamber of commerce may be of use in providing local business lists <https://www.chamberofcommerce.com/> or The Ireland Chamber of Commerce in the United States (ICCUA) <https://iccusa.org/>

Social Networking websites such as Facebook www.facebook.com LinkedIn www.linkedin.com and Myspace <https://myspace.com/> have increased in popularity for both graduates and employers and are worth checking out.

Employment Services/Recruitment Agencies

Using employment services, recruitment agencies and also making speculative approaches to recruiters is common practice for students or graduates. In the U.S., there are about **20,000** staffing and recruiting companies, which altogether operate around **39,000** offices.

State Employment Agencies (sometimes called Job Service) operates a network of around 2,000 local offices in major cities around the country. They provide free counselling, testing and job placements. Addresses are listed in the USA Yellow Pages <https://www.50states.com/yellowpages/> The Yellow Pages also provides a listing of 16 million businesses in the States and has a complete listing of employment and recruitment agencies. The following websites may also prove useful:

- Job Web <http://jobs.amstat.org/jobs> this website is an excellent starting point for accessing useful information and contacts in the USA. It has a section dedicated to students and provides advice and information on all aspects of the job search
- American Jobs: <https://www.americanjobs.com/>
- Nexxt: <https://www.nexxt.com/> Millions of Jobs, Thousands of Companies, Hundreds of Sites.
- Careers USA: <https://www.careersusa.com/>
- Manpower: <https://www.manpower.com/wps/portal/ManpowerUSA/home>
- Randstad: <https://www.randstad.com/>
- Working in the US: <https://www.careerbuilder.com/>
- General Job Search: <http://www.workingamerica.com/>
- All Star Jobs: <https://allstarjobs.com/>
- Monster: <https://www.monster.com/>

Job Listings in Newspapers

The traditional method of replying to job advertisements in papers is still popular. The Saturday editions carry vacancies and most newspapers also have internet editions. Several newspapers have special employment editions, There are many newspapers published daily and weekly. The main ones are listed below:

- USA Today <https://eu.usatoday.com/> only national daily
- The Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com/europe>
- The International Herald Tribune: <http://www.iht.com>
- The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- The Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- The Los Angeles Time: <https://www.latimes.com/>

University Careers Offices

As in other countries the careers office in most universities post up graduate vacancies on the websites so even if you haven't graduated from that particular University it is worth checking out sites of Universities in the area you intend to work. UniRank A-Z Universities in the United States <https://www.4icu.org/us/us-universities.htm> another useful site is A2Z Colleges <http://www.a2zcolleges.com/> where you can search for universities and courses by state, school type, graduates schools etc. The National Association of College and Employers website has information on graduate employment prospects in the US: <https://www.naceweb.org/>

Graduate Fairs

Graduate Careers Fairs can be useful way of finding work and may also provide an opportunity to find out about graduate schemes being offered by companies .Many fairs offer other facilities such as CV workshops, and a chance to network. Check out Education USA: <https://educationusa.state.gov/us-higher-education-professionals/fairs-and-events>, or National Career Fairs: <https://www.nationalcareerfairs.com/> or Job Expo USA: <http://jobexpousa.com/>

Walk-in

This can often be the best way of finding a short term job- just walk into a shop, restaurant, bar, hotel and ask for the manager, even if they don't have anything at the moment leave your CV.

Guide to CV/ Résumé

In the US the term résumé is used instead of CV. A résumé is usually a one page summary of personal, education, and experience qualifications. Most employers will look for a résumé, though on occasion for more serious and permanent jobs will ask for a supplement. An accompanying cover letter is usually required. Remember this is your opportunity to sell yourself. Remember to use 'American English' spelling, an American spell-check program can help. If you have received your undergraduate degree it is worth translating your result into the American. Online applications are becoming more commonplace but remember they need just as much attention –always double check your application before pressing send. A concise application email in formal writing should accompany your résumé. For some help in writing a CV/Resume try: <https://www.iagora.com/>

The interview process in the USA is similar to that in Ireland. Some companies may also require a psychological/psychometric test to be taken as part of the selection process.

WORKING IN THE USA

- When you arrive in the US, it is essential that you go to the nearest social security office and apply for a social security number and card. You are eligible for both when you enter on J visa status.
- The American working week is usually between 35 and 40 hours. However, at present, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://www.bls.gov/> more than 25 million Americans work more than

- 49 hours each week. Of that number, 11 million spend 60 hours or more at work each week,
- Americans also have fewer holiday entitlements (the national average being 13 days per year) and have longer working days.
 - Minimum wage rates vary from state the federal minimum wages is **\$7.25 (USD)**. Many states have higher minimum wages see <https://www.dol.gov/>
 - The average graduate starting salary in 2018 is \$50,004 -National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) <https://www.naceweb.org/job-market/compensation/>
 - In an emergency you should contact the Embassy of Ireland USA, 2234 Massachusetts Ave, NW Washington DC 20008 Tel 1 202 462 3939. <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/usa/>

NEW J1 RULINGS.

- Over the course of five decades, the J-1 programme has evolved. Some important changes to the programme in 2016 will enhance an already life-changing experience for the thousands of Irish who participate. Specifically, the two largest independent U.S. J-1 sponsors, CIEE and InterExchange, recently announced a new policy that will require all prospective J-1 SWT participants, worldwide, including students from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany and other visa waiver countries, to have a pre-arranged job vetted and approved prior to travel to the U.S. in 2016.
- These independent U.S. sponsors already have significant experience managing thousands of pre-placed J-1 participants worldwide. Pre-placement has been a requirement for participants from non-visa waiver countries since 2012. These individuals report a high degree of satisfaction with pre-arranged jobs, emphasizing how pre-placement removes the stress, uncertainty, time and cost associated with securing accommodation and employment on the ground in the U.S. Pre-placements also introduce students to diverse regions of the United States, expanding and deepening their cultural and professional experiences.
- The U.S. government is working actively with applicants, Irish government representatives and independent U.S. and Irish implementing institutions to ensure Irish students continue to benefit from the J-1 SWT programme. You must be proactive and begin the process early.
- Interested individuals should contact <https://ie.usembassy.gov/visas/nonimmigrant-visas/j-1-summer-work-and-travel/>