International School Counseling

Webinar Presenter: Mekisha M Hugh, M.Ed, MS
Webinar Date: June 13, 2019
Learning outcomes:

• After viewing this webinar you should be able to:
  – Explain the differences between the various international school agencies and how to utilize them in the most effective way.
  – Develop a professional plan to assist in transitioning from school counseling in the United States to an international setting.
  – Create a stellar application profile.

Starting the Process
Step 1: Hiring Season & Applying

- Hiring season runs prior to the next school year from September to March.
  - School counselors looking to go abroad for the 2020-2021 school year will need to apply starting late September 2019 – March 2020.
- Get your foot in the door!!!!
  - Passing up a great opportunity to hold out for a dream location.
  - Focusing to find a position in the country of your heritage... “It’s always been my dream to work in Jamaica.”
- Do your research:
  - Join international educator groups on FB
  - Ask friends working overseas – the international school community is very small.
  - Research what’s happening politically, socially, and legally. (i.e. same sex couples)

Step 2: The Agencies

- ISS-Schrole Advantage: www.iss-schrole.com:
  - Membership fee - $75 for 2 years or until you find a position.
  - Application – Personal info, education, certifications, work history. 3 references, photos of you engaging in special projects (not mandatory). Once submitted it should be approved within 2-3 days.
  - Access to job database, career fairs internationally and in Atlanta, Boston, California, New York, and a few other locations. IFairs are available as well.
Search Associates

- Search Associates (Search) [www.searchassociates.com]:
  - Membership fee - $225 for 3 years or until you find a position via Search.
  - Your credentials are screened first and if they feel you are marketable then you will be required to pay the membership fee. Access to job database, and career fairs internationally.

Other Websites

1. Association for American Schools in South America - [www.aassa.com]
2. TieOnline - [www.tieonline.com]
3. Council of International Schools - [www.cois.org]
4. TeachAway - [www.teachaway.com]
5. JoyJobs - [www.joyjobs.com]
6. GRC Fair -
7. Northern Iowa Fair -
Step 3: Interviews & Fairs

The Job Fair

- Register for fair closest to you and handle your travel arrangements.
- International schools are given time to do a brief presentation about their school.
- Orientation sessions are available to help you make your best impression.
- Sign ups – schedule interviews with the schools of your choice. You will interview with Directors or principals.
- You could leave with a job!
The iFair

- Similar to the job fair but done online from the comforts of your home with less pressure.
- Register for the iFair and enter a portal where you will connect with schools.
- Sign up for schools of interest and enter a chatroom. You’ll chat with admin and if a connection is made they will request a Skype date later.

The Skype Interview

- Set up an interview date and time with school of interest.
- Be aware of the time zone difference!
- Make sure you’re in a quiet place...have headphones nearby just in case.
- Do your homework!!!! Research the school, country, customs, and how cultural implications may affect your counseling program.
- Expect to have 2 interviews – one with the principal and the last with the head of school. If you make it to the head of school prepare for a possible job offer.
Step 4: Job Offers & Paperwork

The Paperwork

Personal Documentation

- Passport
- Signed contract
- Medical records, prescriptions and glasses
- Birth certificate, marriage licenses, divorce records, visa and shipping inventory
- Diplomas, certificates and transcripts
- Centralize important contacts and information
- Look into international driver's permit
- Health insurance
- Absentee ballots
Moving Overseas

Airline reservations  Mail forwarding  Arrange to sell/rent/store house, auto and personal property

Check with school about pets  Research immunizations, physical, etc.  Research items that may be hard to find in the country

Relocating
Step 5: The Arrival

Packing and Shipping

- Keep an inventory list
- Bring enough but not too much
- Don't ship any food or spices!
- 110v. or 220v. electricity/plugs
- Extra shipping coverage
- Know shipping timeline and limits/restrictions
- Ask your school about customs duties, special restrictions and any policies about shipping personal items
Culture Shock

- **Home country**
  - Pre-departure
  - Culture shock

- **Host country**
  - Honeymoon
  - Adjustment
  - Pre-return anxiety
  - Recovery
  - Re-entry shock

- **Home country**
  - Honeymoon
  - Re-adjustment
  - Recovery

- Helpful tips:
  - Register at your country’s embassy
  - Shipping arrival time, method of payment, customs requirement and delivery time
  - Contact customs and complete necessary paperwork
  - Local driver's license
  - Contact local phone, internet and cable providers
  - Housing contract, method of payment and maintenance
  - Familiarize yourself with the local area
Resources

ASCA Webinar Series

International School Teachers
- Forum group
  - About
  - Discussion
  - Chats
  - Announcements
  - Members
  - Events
  - Videos
  - Photos
  - Files

International Single Teachers
- Closed group
  - About
  - Discussion
  - Chats
  - Announcements
  - Members
  - Events
  - Videos