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# RELOCATING TO A NEW COMMUNITY

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As you prepare for life after graduation or a summer internship, you may have considered relocating to another city or region of the country. After all, what could be more exciting than a fresh start in New York or Seattle? While relocating can be a rewarding experience, it can be challenging. Launching a job search from hundreds of miles away requires a bit more effort, but when you are finally settled into your new place, it can be worth it! To ease your search, keep the following tips in mind:

## Do Your Research on the City...

Sure, San Francisco sounds like an exciting city, but did you know a studio apartment would cost you upwards of \$1,900/month or more? Before you make any decisions, do some research on the city you plan to call home.

- What is traffic like?
- Will you enjoy the climate?
- Is public transportation available?
- What cultural and entertainment options are available: professional sports teams, museums, theaters, etc?

While some of these questions won't be as important if you are only planning to spend a summer, it's still a good idea to have done your homework. Check the Internet or travel section of the local bookstore or library. There are many websites that can help you find out all the details of any city. Some websites to check are:

- [www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)
- [www.findyourspot.com](http://www.findyourspot.com)- If you know you want to get out of North Dakota, but aren't sure where, check out this website. Take a short quiz, and Spot will give you a list of cities you may like as well as essential information.

## ... And then 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 this city is a good fit for you.

- Utilize GoInGlobal's array of info on 40+ cities/40 countries (on Career Development's website)
- Check online newspapers from other cities to get a feel for what is available in other cities/states.
- Check out websites that allow you to search by city and keyword (e.g. [wwwIndeed.com](http://wwwIndeed.com) )
- Look at websites located by topic area on the "Job/Internship Opportunities" section of Career Development's homepage ([www.dickinsonstate.edu/career](http://www.dickinsonstate.edu/career))

If there is a college or university in the area, check their Career Services' website to see what information you can find.

## Choose the Organizations You Want to Work For

Now that you know what is out there:

Make a list of the organizations that sound most interesting to you and the key people you will need to contact. Do extra research on these particular organizations and contact them. Don't rely on just sending a cover letter and resume to these people. You will need to follow-up with a phone call so you are more than just a piece of paper.

Ideally, you will want to have a trip planned to your city of choice so you can set up face-to-face meetings with your target companies and begin to meet people. This brings us to our next piece of advice...

## Have a Relocation Plan

Once you know where you want to go, you'll need a plan to get there. Packing up all your worldly possessions and hitting the road may work for a few people, but it's not the best way to make a major life change.

Your plan should include:

- A timeline for your move
- A relocation budget, and
- Hopefully, some trips to the city before you start to call it home.

Being able to make one or two trips can make a big difference in the success of your search. 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. Even if you are only moving for a summer internship, being able to visit the city and meet with prospective employers will give you an edge over just being a voice on the telephone.

## 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? Even if they do not work in the field you are interested in, they may know someone who does. And that is what networking is all about! 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!

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