In today’s international labour market employers really look for global awareness in their graduate recruits. What does this mean and how can you add it to the employability skills package that you have to offer? Well it isn’t complicated or difficult - the University of Sheffield is a major international institution and is committed to supporting students develop global and intercultural awareness both within their course and in relation to the University experience as a whole. So you simply have to take advantage of all the opportunities on offer and engage with students from the 130+ countries on campus. Have a look at these suggestions below. Some are very ‘small’, others may take up more of your time, but they will all help to improve your global focus, add a new dimension to your CV, and enhance your employability.

1. Make the effort to talk to international students who are on your course, find out about them and their country. When you are involved in group work on your course, try and make your group as internationally diverse as possible. This will help bring a new and interesting perspective to your work. Also get to know students from other countries on a social basis, for example those who are living in your hall or flat, find out about them and their cultures.

2. Take advantage of opportunities on your course to select modules that have an intercultural and global dimension.

3. Learn a new language or improve your existing language skills. Contact the Modern Language Teaching Skills Centre (MLTC) for details www.shef.ac.uk/mltc. You could also do the ‘Intercultural Awareness’ module which is offered by the MLTC.

4. Look out for, and attend, International events on campus such as ‘Intro Fiesta’, ‘International Cultural Evening’, discussions on global issues run by The Exchange’ in the Union etc. They are a great opportunity to have a good time and meet people whilst learning more about other cultures, customs and viewpoints.

5. Consider spending part of your degree in another part of the world under the ‘Erasmus’ or ‘Study Abroad’ Programmes. Call in to their Fair on 3/11/2010 1.00pm-3.00pm in Firth Hall, or see www.sheffield.ac.uk/ieu

6. Think about applying for internationally-focused part-time jobs working for the University such as ‘Orientation and Meet and Greet Assistants’ etc or volunteer as a ‘Teaching Assistant’ with the English Language Teaching Centre www.sheffield.ac.uk/more

7. Consider doing a period of voluntary work or work experience abroad - see our leaflets on this - www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/tips.html and also Degrees
with Employment Experience www.shef.ac.uk/placements/index.html

8. Do The Sheffield Graduate Award and opt to complete the ‘Extending International Horizons’ section www.shef.ac.uk/thesheffieldgraduateaward

9. Attend a ‘Skills for Success’ session on Internationalisation www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/advice/sfs.html

10. If you are interested in working abroad have a look at the ‘Going Global’ database available on the Careers Service website – it is a fantastic resource and includes over 500,000 job and internship vacancies www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students

There are probably lots of other ways - let us know if you are doing something that is adding to your global awareness.

Finally, don’t forget to ensure that you fully reflect your global awareness and skills in your CV and applications to employers. Check out our website for ideas on how to do this, and/or come and talk to us about it- www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob

Opening Times:

Careers Service:  Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm (Tuesday 11am - 5pm)  Tel: 0114 222 0900
Student Jobshop:  Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm (Tuesday 11am - 3pm)  Tel: 0114 222 0941