

## A report on working abroad

Learn how to write a report on working abroad.

### Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Write the words in the correct group.

a disadvantage	a benefit	a plus
a drawback	a minus	an advantage

Good things	Bad things

## Reading text: A report on working abroad

*The principal of a local college has asked you to write a report on the advantages and disadvantages of working abroad in the summer holidays. She would like to know if the college should recommend 'working holidays' to its students.*

### Introduction

Currently, approximately 25 per cent of Hawthorne College students work abroad during the summer break. This report aims to show the benefits and drawbacks of working overseas in order to decide whether the college should recommend the experience to its students.

To prepare for this report, a sample of 100 students were interviewed, 23 of whom had worked abroad. This is a summary of their comments.

### Benefits

According to the students interviewed, working overseas during the summer holidays can bring several benefits. Most of all, students can improve their foreign language skills by working in a non-English speaking country. This may help them get a better job in the future.

Additionally, learning about a different culture and way of life makes people more open-minded. A further advantage is that students may become more confident when they learn practical skills to help them live independently later in life, for example, finding accommodation and cooking for themselves.

## **Drawbacks**

However, a large number of interviewees mentioned drawbacks as well. Students who need to study over the summer will find it difficult to do so while working abroad. Most significant of all are finance issues: only a minority of students are able to afford travel expenses, accommodation and visas. In addition, students may have to take low-income jobs if they are not fluent in the local language, so they may struggle to cover their expenses.

## **Conclusion and recommendation**

Working abroad may improve students' language skills and confidence. However, students often need to earn money during the holidays to support their studies and working abroad may not provide the opportunity to save. Also, the cost of travel means that only students who are able to afford it have the chance to do this. Therefore, the college should only recommend working abroad if there is financial support from the college for students that need it.

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## **Tips**

1. The basic structure of a report is usually the same:
  - Introduction (including the purpose of the report and how the data was collected)
  - Findings (including benefits and drawbacks if appropriate)
  - Conclusion and recommendations.
2. Use headings for each section.
3. Use formal vocabulary (e.g. *Currently, ... / in order to ... / Therefore, ...*) to give the report a formal style.
4. The ideas and conclusions should be objective. Use non-personal subjects (e.g. *This report aims to ...*) and passive structures (e.g. *100 students were interviewed*).
5. You can also use *may* to show that something is not certain (e.g. *This may help them get a better job in the future*).

## Tasks

### Task 1

Match the sentences (1–4) with the sections of the report (a–d).

#### Sentences

1. .... Therefore, this is not a good idea for all students.
2. .... The main objective of this report is to ...
3. .... Students can improve their chances of ...
4. .... Students may have problems getting visas.

#### Sections of the report

- a. Introduction
- b. Advantages
- c. Disadvantages
- d. Conclusion

### Task 2

Match the phrases with the same function.

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|--|--|
| 1. .... The majority of the students interviewed said that ...                 | a. The main objective of this report is to ...                     |
| 2. .... Given the points made above, it is recommended that ...                | b. To prepare for this report, 100 students were interviewed.      |
| 3. .... This report aims to ...  | c. According to the students interviewed, ...                      |
| 4. .... This report is based on information from 100 interviews with students. | d. Taking all these factors into account, it is suggested that ... |

### Task 3

Complete the report conclusion with words from the box.

if	However	Also	so	Therefore
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Volunteering can develop a range of new skills for students. (1)..... , there may not be many local volunteering opportunities (2)..... some students would need personal transport to attend. (3)..... , individuals may have specific training needs and gaps in their skill set that only certain volunteering opportunities can fulfil. (4)..... , careers advisers should only recommend volunteering (5)..... the right role and transport is available.

### Discussion

Would you like to work abroad during your holidays?