

Mission Expat: How to Launch Your Global Career

Zim: So, I want everyone to introduce themselves by telling us who you are, what you do and how your work took you abroad. We're going to start with Jessica.

Jessica: Hello everyone. My name is Jessica Nabongo. I'm better known as @jnambowa in the social media world. I just turned 30 and I am living in Washington D.C. I've been here for three weeks and I don't know if my career took me abroad as much as I just wanted to live abroad and had to find employment to sustain myself. So, I'm looking forward to today's chat.

Zim: Awesome, Sultan.

Sultan: Good morn...well, afternoon on the east coast. My name is Sultan Abdullah. I am 31. I work for an agency called NOAA, which is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And this job didn't necessarily take me abroad. It would be more or less the opportunities that I took while in school, other opportunities with nonprofits that allowed me to go abroad. So, my current position has opportunities to go abroad. So, I'm looking towards exploring those as well.

Zim: Awesome. Alright, Blessing

Blessing: Hi, my name is Blessing Oshin. I'm 28. I work for Dupont as a global energy consultant. Well, I think...yeah, my job took me abroad but before then, I've always been sort of a jetsetter. At the age of 17, I packed up a briefcase and I left Nigeria to go to college here in the U.S. all by myself without knowing anybody in the U.S. So, that was fun and since then, I've just been everywhere. So, when I joined Dupont, I was just going raising my hand, telling everyone, "Can I grow abroad? I know you guys are everywhere. I want to go everywhere." So, when the opportunity came, they called me and here I am, traveling the world. So, I'm looking forward to this chat.

Zim: Nice, awesome. Will.

Will: What's going on? My name is William Worley. I am 25. I am from Chicago, Illinois. I went to school in Washington, D.C. I graduated from Howard University. Right now, I'm the CEO of Charming Mad Genius, a nonprofit organization here in Illinois and I'm also brand ambassador -I'm the face of Sprite in Chicago.

So, I guess the international opportunities that have been afforded to me have been by and through some of the people that I've had a privilege of representing whether they be fashion brands that have had placement internationally or musical bands whether they be artists, singers or what have you that have gotten attention abroad in London specifically most recently. So, I'm long forward to being able to travel the world and not break the bank to be able to do so and helping get my clients' message out. So, that's pretty cool.

Zim: Awesome! Now, Joke.

Joke: Hi everyone. My name is Joke Karibo and I live in London. I worked for UK publishing company, which I've been doing for about five years. It's given me the opportunity to travel a little bit to India and to the U.S. because yeah....

Zim: Alright. So, about an hour ago, we opened our inboxes for questions and we'll be pulling from those towards the end of the Hangout. So, if you have any questions, feel free to respond to the email that you have received and we'll try to get that up towards the end of the hangout. So, first thing's first. We are going to start with Jessica. Jessica, you've lived and worked in five, amazing, completely different countries. What is something or things that somebody should consider when thinking about an international career?

Jessica: Okay, so I've made a list of 4 things that I think are critical when you're considering. So, the first I would say is know your industry. Whether it be management consulting, finance, education or international development like myself, I think it's really important that you know your industry so that you know which countries the opportunities are in. The second thing I would say is know your strengths and I think this goes with any career. You have to be very confident in what you're selling to a potential employer.

Third, I would say is know your personal needs and when I say that, I mean know the top of city you want. Do you want to live in a city? Do you want to live in a small town? Do you want to live in the countryside? How close do you need to be to your home, to your family, to your friends? I think that's really important and a lot of people that I've met moving around, you know, it's very easy to fall into a sort of depression because you're missing home and you're missing your friends.

So, I think it's really important that you're honest with yourself in terms of what you can and can't handle. Then, the fourth thing I would say is be open-minded and fearless. Living in different countries is all about being completely open to a new culture. So, that means forgetting everything that you know...kind of just so that you're able to experience everything and not have these high expectations but really just appreciate every moment and everything for exactly what it is.

Zim: Awesome awesome. We're going to move next to Sultan. Sultan, you have a pretty impressive resume. You've interned in Ghana, in India and Cambodia and you did two years in the Peace Corps and, I can't pronounce it, is it Vanuatu?

Sultan: Correct

Zim: which is a country off the coast of Australia. So, what experiences do you think can help prepare somebody for an international career?

Sultan: That's a very loaded load question, which is a very good question. I believe the best experience is to look to volunteering with different agencies, whether it's nonprofit, just to sort of get a handle of who you are as a person, as we just stated. Some of the things that you like even some of the places that you may want to go.

It allows you to kind of get first-hand experience here state side so you can more or less figure out if this is something that's suitable for you if you want to do it and which locations that you may want to do it abroad in. My thing was volunteering at different agencies, doing different walks with different companies to learn more about where they're

located and learn different ways that I can sort of get involved with a lot of their work overseas. Volunteering was definitely the best way.

Zim: Got it. Now Blessing, you have an amazing bundle of joy, Camille. She's 5 right?

Blessing: Yes, she's five.

Zim: Okay, how do you incorporate her into your business travel and what advice would you have for parents who want to incorporate more travel into their careers but they have children that they have to take of? What is your advice for them?

Blessing: Well first, be prepared to be a giant's ball of mess. You have to be ready to do the work. There's really no strategy. So, for me, I just assess my situation, assess the destination and the finances and if it's something that I can incorporate Camille to, then I go for it because really, I want to be able to show her as much as possible by taking her to different places and so, it's really exciting when I tell my boss, we're going to Spain and I say "Can I take Camille with me? I promise she'll be good. Somebody will be watching her or I'll take her to this daycare." You have to be able to come up with various scenarios and that's me. I'm a dreamer and I think that everybody that travels -we're all dreamers and so, I just dream up different opportunities whenever business travel comes up.

Incorporating travel you're business, I think it's very easy in a sense that you really just need to be open-minded and honest. For example, my boss says, "Oh Blessing, do you want to go to Spain or do you want to go to Morocco for this assignment and I say yes. But in my mind, I'm already plotting like on the way to Spain, I can stop in Morocco or I can stop in France and so I tell my boss...Sorry, one second. So, I tell my boss...and I say "Oh, can I just spend the weekend on my way back" The reality is people need to know that you love to travel. If people know that you love to travel, when you ask for those extra two days to spend in Paris, it actually makes sense to them. So, you can never tell enough people your love for travel, whether it's your personal life or career.

Zim: Awesome. Alright, Will. As an entrepreneur, how did you find and start building a portfolio of international clients? What advice would you have for entrepreneurs who really want to travel the world but they're having a really tough time building that portfolio of clients from all over the world?

Will: Alright. Well, what I realized, pretty much as soon as I finished school that the traditional format of outreach wasn't going to work. Running up on people that I didn't know trying to solicit myself and say hey, I do this or I do that, trying to qualify myself to a complete stranger. They're like, what the hell are you doing, and so that didn't really work. I kicked around and tried to do that for a few years and what I realized is that the best approach for me was to start organically.

I was fortunate enough that I was surrounded by a lot of different people that had a bunch of different skill sets and a lot of different things to offer, whether it would be through an entertainment field or just in administration or someone who just had a knack for traveling or wanted to view the world. So, I started with my friends and started to kind of finagle and finesse with them and figure out how we could get them into better situations whether it be get them a gig to do a show if they're a singer or to get them placement in India. If

they're an accountant, I have a friend that's an accountant that got placed in India and we did some finessing and some other shadow work to try to get that locked in for her.

But, I think the best option for me and the best advice that I can give is start close to your center and through that, you'll wind up meeting a lot of different people and you'll wind up meeting like-minded individuals and I think when you put that kind of energy out in the world that you're a global citizen or a member of the global community, that you are a traveler, you'll find yourself around other people like that and natural conversations that would get you and your friends across the globe or across the pond are kind of bound to happen at that point.

Zim: Awesome and lastly, Joke. You were born to Nigerian parents in Paris and you now live and you work in London. You speak five languages. First, which five languages do you speak? Second, how has being multilingual helped you in your career?

Joke: So, I speak Yoruba. I speak Danish, French and Spanish and English. So, those are five. The thing about being multilingual –it just gives you flexibility and freedom in choosing where you want to work and sort of...yeah, there's a lot of room for different ideas and different options, which I think if you have only one language, you wouldn't have. So, I feel like I'm not restricted to where I can work or who I can work with as well and I think that's an asset for any company.

Zim: Absolutely. So, I will direct the following questions to certain individuals. But, as I've mentioned to our curators before the call, that is there's a question that they'd like to answer, feel free to chime and then, at the end, we'll leave ten to fifteen minutes for audience questions. So, this first question goes to everyone: How do you get started? What are your favorite resources to look for jobs abroad or internships abroad? What are resources you recommend? Anybody can take this.

Jessica: I will start. I use Google a lot because Google knows everything. So, my first experience living abroad was...the process started in 2007 when I was planning to move to Japan and I literally put in Google "Teaching Jobs in Japan," and obviously, a bunch of things came up. Other than that, I would say it depends on your industry. So, in the international development space, Devex is a really good source for international jobs and also UN jobs if that's your sort of thing. Finally, I think friends of friends and then the friends of friends are really important. So, I think it's extremely important to ask your friend to connect you with their friends so that you can find different opportunities.

Zim: Right. Anyone else?

Blessing: Well for me, I think that if you have career, I think that if you want to get started in terms of finding international assignment, you need to very quickly start proving yourself with what you're doing right now because a lot of people want –they look at you so when you come forward, they say "Hey, you're that girl that wants to go with you to China." It's easier for them to say yes, go ahead and buy your ticket because they know that you will deliver.

So, I think that for you to get an international assignment, it's not easy especially in corporate America and you're young. But, if you start proving yourself and you start showing people that you can deliver, then that's going to put one foot in. The other thing I

think is learning a different language. The reason I say this is I don't speak anything other than English and Yoruba and we travel to so many countries for work and I can't tell you how much money we paid for translators or somebody or just a contractor to come in and help translate things for us. So, I feel like if you love another country like France, start learning French. Pick up a book. Travel to France and some way, the universe opens up. I am a true testament. The universe opens up when you take that first step.

Zim: Awesome. So Sultan, tell me how did you find your internships? Were you in college when you found them?

Sultan: I was in college. My first one was study abroad when I was in undergrad. We had an African World Studies Institute that came in and sort of talked about opportunities of not only just going abroad and the benefits of it but just how it impacts not just your life but the lives of others just as well. So, I started there and went to Ghana for four years. Then the next internship was through school with an organization called Plan International where I was able to go to Cambodia for 4 ½ months one I graduated from undergrad. Then off that, it was also friends of friends and sort of talking to them.

The biggest thing I would say is to be around like-minded individuals and sort of be comfortable getting yourself to saying hey, this is not necessarily for me or just your friends and not into it as much as you are, you would still be comfortable to do that as well. So, just always be prepared when an opportunity comes. When an internship or a job comes about, you're prepared to go on it. You don't have any restrictions here or there that would sort of hinder you from doing that.

Zim: Alright. So, next question that we're going to sort of dive into is for individuals who don't have any sort of international experience. So, they've either never stepped foot abroad, never sort of worked abroad, what are different methods that you can do to sort of boost your resume so that you look attractive when you are reaching out for a job or an internship abroad?

Will: I can take that if you want.

Zim: Go for it Will.

Will: I guess the first thing that I started out doing like I said earlier was help build the resume up of my peers and the people around me. Particularly, if they're in a situation to move abroad than I am at any point. So, I would try to be a good resume builder and say hey, I was instrumental in helping Sultan get to this and that and this this and that and whereas that may actually be a true statement where I may actually be sitting at my desk here and he's doing all of traveling. But, if I help facilitate his movement, that's a true statement that I can add to it as a bullet point or whatever on my resume and that peaks people's interest and that peaks potential employers' interest or potential corporate partners and it gives them the impression that you are a global citizen already even if you've never been out of North America or out of your home town or country. So, I think that that's kind of how I started and I was able to create a lot of conversations and I started a lot of dialogue with people that I probably wouldn't of had I not taken that energy and put it into my friends or put it into my new contacts as opposed to pouring it into myself.

Zim: Yeah, absolutely

Jessica: I was just going to say I think that some fellowships and internships are really important especially if you're interested in a career like public policy or again international development. Again, there are so many opportunities especially for American citizens. You have things like Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall. I mean these are for people a little bit younger than us. But usually coming out of grad school or coming out of undergrad, there's really so many opportunities to live overseas for short or kind of extended periods of time without actually having a real job.

Blessing: ...yeah and for me, I think that when I was in college, I started doing a lot of things like African Student Union, Southside African Network. There's a lot of things that shows that you have interest. Even if you can't throw yourself out there right away, showing interest in other international activities...when I joined my company, I quickly dived into the Southside African Network at work. I started taking on a leadership role there and a lot of people knew me from China, from EMEA/Asian Pacific. So, it was very easy for them to say yes, we'll go ahead and send Blessing because we've set up acts like this before in the past. So, I think getting yourself out there is very crucial.

Zim: Yeah no, I agree. Then, another resource that I do want to throw out there that sort of echoes off of what Jessica said about finding these internships and jobs. There's a book called "Delaying the Real Word" by Colleen Kinder, a book that is completely full of internships, fellowships, all over the world that tells you how to get them, when the applications open, when they close. It's actually how I found my fellowship that took me over to India for a year all expenses paid. So, that is one of the resources that I would say is very very helpful. So, outside of Google and outside of some of the other resources you mentioned Jessica, are there any other places you can go? Sultan, did you go to the head of your department and say, hey I want to go overseas; hook me up. How did that happen? How did you all facilitate that?

Sultan: Well mainly for me, I know someone else talked about google. But, I also did a lot of searched online and just for a lot of international development because that's what I was primarily interested in... a lot of nonprofits that was doing work. A lot of times, you just have to, I think Jessica said it earlier, you just have to be prepared to be out of your comfort zone because there may be some situations where you can find fully paid internships or there may be places where you may have to pay a little bit for that internship but not to be discouraged if that is mainly the case.

Like I said, I went online and just typed in a whole bunch of agencies and it brought up a lot of things and I just went to their pages as well. But, another thing was I wasn't afraid to go to the so-called developing countries and just kind of go there for vacation and was able to network well with different NGOs that was within the community doing work as well and sort of put me on to something else and something else. So, I was able to travel one time just going from one NGO in one country to another one, staying there for like two to three weeks and moving on. So, that was something else that was big for me.

Zim: Awesome. So, we're going to move on to family because family is an important part of moving abroad. If you don't have that support system, it's sort of ...it can be a challenging experiences. So, I wanted to talk a little bit to Blessing because I know that I have had people send me messages about traveling. They kids or they have a child and they don't really know how to make it work and I want this to sort of be an honest moment. Blessing,

what are some of the joys and the challenges of sort of navigating your business career alongside Camille. I know you have to worry about her school. You have to worry about her homework or her shots and different things. What are some of the joys and challenges you encounter?

Blessing: Well, thank you. So, this actually happened to me last week. This is not a made up story. I was in Spain and Morocco. Actually, we went on vacation to three different countries for two weeks, came back, I was in the U.S. for I think 30 hours total and I had to jet off back to Spain and Morocco for work and then to Paris, But anyways, I had two weeks that I was going to be out of the country and I have no one in the house, just Camille. So, it's very very important that you have a support network. I cannot stress that enough. Have that friend. Have that buddy, that co-worker; somebody that you know you can trust your kid with or have enough money to buy a plane ticket.

I have flown Camille to Atlanta to her grandma in the span of a day using my miles of course. So, I flew her out to her grandma; she was out there for two weeks. Two weeks ago, I basically dropped her off on my way to the airport. My friend met me at the airport while I was going to Spain. You will miss them. I have missed Camille. She had a first day of school two weeks ago and I remember balling my eyes out of Facetime just seeing how beautiful she was and I wasn't there. But, that's the thing. You just have to make sacrifices. But, I was balling my eyes out and my daughter was attending school for the first time and I wasn't there. But, she understands and she knows. Matter of fact, the first thing she told me was, "Why are you crying and not taking pictures of Spain?" She cared more about seeing pictures from Spain than about me crying. So, I think you really need to be prepared for the challenges and having people support you through it.

Kim: Can I ask Camille a question?

Blessing: Yeah. [Hey, you want to answer a question?]

Camille: Hi

Zim: Hi Camille. How are you?

Blessing: Speak up honey.

Camille: Good

Zim: Can you tell me what your favorite country that you visited is?

Camille: Paris

Zim: You like Paris? What did you like about Paris?

Camille: The Eiffel Tower

Zim: Oh, you liked the Eiffel Tower? They're fun! Did you like the food as well?

Camille: Yes

Zim: It was good? Okay. Awesome. How do you feel when you travel with your mom to all these different places? How do you like traveling with your mom?

Camille: I traveled to Italy

Zim: Oh, you went to Italy? Did you like it?

Camille: [illegible] with my mommy

Zim: Oh wow! Okay, can you give the headphones to your mommy? Thank you Camille.

Blessing: I don't know what was said.

Zim: I asked her if she likes traveling with you.

Blessing: Oh yeah, she does. She's always crying when I go alone.

Zim: Aww. Blessing, how can you get Camille to appreciate other cultures?

Blessing: Well, I don't have to do anything really. We actually were in Italy for a week and a half with my aunt. She lives right outside of Milan. She has four boys and they all speak Italian; no English. So, Camille had fun just learning Italian, playing with them, without even knowing the language; tons of interaction. I think she appreciates just being in a different environment and she's very curious. That's the thing. Kids are very curious and I cannot stress enough. This is the IS of opportunity that anybody can have to show their kids what's possible. Camille has interacted with people in Italy, in Arabia who spoke Arabic, trying to speak Arabic. It's just fun. Anyways...

Zim: That is awesome. Thank you Camille...so nice to meet you.

Blessing: Say bye.

Camille: Bye

Zim: Alright, so now that Camille has stolen the show, we're going to move on to the next question. We're going to talk Visa and logistics and this is for anyone. How can international candidates sort of navigate the Visa requirements? It can get a little tricky. Sometimes, you can get out for three months and then you have to register with FROO. What is some advice that you have for people who need to navigate Visa requirements?

Sultan: I'll just say mainly just planning ahead and read up on the embassy websites. Call them to make sure you have the appropriate documents because you do not want to get stuck in a place and not have the right requirements. I almost didn't get back into Cambodia because of that. Same reason -just thinking oh, I'm an American; everything will be okay. I tried to get back in and they pretty much said uh-uh, not happening.

So, I had to go back to Thailand and just take care of some things there. So, just plan ahead, read carefully and also make sure your friends have important documents of yourself whether it's copies of passports or Visa registration. Save it on dropbox. Save it on maybe Google drive -just something. Make sure somebody else has the same requirements

that you need so you're able to get that same copy as well. So, my advice is plan ahead and be extremely prepared to be patient.

Jessica: I actually get this question a lot because people often email me or call me or Facebook me and tell me that they want to live abroad but how do they get a work Visa. So, I am a free spirit. But, I am very practical. So, I have not yet moved to a country where I didn't have a job prior to moving to that country. The reason is because usually if you're going for work, they'll sort everything out for you. You'll have to go to the embassy in the U.S., be it the Japanese embassy or the Italian embassy, but just mail things to D.C. before. They'll sort everything out for you because usually a government requires that you have a letter of invitation and all of these things because quite honestly, it's really difficult to get work depending on where you want to go especially in Europe.

In the UK, it's impossible. I went to school there and they still won't give me a work Visa. So, I think like Sultan said, you have to know the requirements. But, I think your best bet is to try and find a job and have them sort out the Visa. Now, one thing you can do, fortunately, if you have a U.S. or European passport, it's very easy to travel to a lot of countries on three-month Visas. So, you could travel to a country, stay a while, find a job and then fly back home and get a proper work Visa. That's always another option as well.

Zim: Then Insurance? Medical expenses? Taxes? Is there any advice that anybody has as it relates to those? I know that a lot of it is heavy in doing your own research because you don't want to be that person that comes back from being abroad and then, you owe back taxes or you don't want to be that person that moves abroad and you're caught up at the hospital and you can't pay something. So, does anybody have any advice as it relates to those things? Do you all get traveler's insurance when you go abroad or did you have it when you went abroad?

Jessica: I've always had medical insurance through my job. But one thing I do if I'm doing long trips like six weeks or three weeks whatever, I do go through Delta. Usually, when you buy a plane ticket, there's a little option for travel insurance and I do that mostly because I promise my mom if I die overseas, she doesn't have to pay for my body to come back, which sounds very morbid but it's very real. That recreation is very important. Also, that insurance covers if I get sick, it will fly her down to wherever I am so that she can be in the hospital with me. It's morbid but these things are super important.

Will: As far as the taxes go, one thing that I always kind of advise people especially with the new ordinances that they've put in place for U.S. Citizens. The income that you make abroad may still be subject to taxation here in the United States. One of the ways that I've thought to circumvent that is to set your income up going through a trust. Zim, I think we were talking about this in the group chat the other day. But, one of the things that I always like to do to avoid filing as an individual but as a corporation or as a trust if all of the income comes through that because it winds up giving you a lot less of a burden. In some instances, you are actually tax-exempt.

Zim: Got it. Okay, sounds good! Then, communicating with loved ones back home –how did you do it?

Blessing: Facetime. No seriously, everybody has Apple computers or an Apple phone or an iPad. So I think, for sure, use Facetime, use Skype. People don't do letters anymore. I don't

even think you get them in time. But, emails, Facetime and Skype –those are the three things that work for me.

Zim: Joke, your family, I'm assuming, you're parents are still in Paris?

Joke: Yeah

Zim: How do you communicate with them? Same thing?

Joke: Yeah, the same. But my mom and I are quite old school. We like to write each other letters. So yes, we still do send each other letters actually. We still use the postal system. But yes, telephone, text. She hasn't gotten [illegible] but maybe she will someday. I think if you travel now, you'll have so many mediums and so many roads you can use to communicate. But, it's not really a problem –I don't think.

Zim: Then, in terms of your phone situation –what does that look like when you move from the U.S. to other countries? Did you get a new phone locked? If you had an iPhone, did you get it unlocked and popped in a Sim? How did that work?

Jessica: So, I paid \$650 for an iPhone that was unlocked through Apple, which was very painful. However, cell phone service overseas is way cheaper. So, I highly encourage everyone, if you are traveling, get a basic phone if you don't want to buy an actual unlocked iPhone and just buy your Sim cards in different countries. I never ever ever turn on my U.S. cell phone service when I am outside of the U.S. continent. I don't care about AT&T's international plan. I never do it. Once I leave, I'm switching Sims on the plane or as soon as I land in the airport, I'm buying a new Sim. It will save you a lot of money.

Zim: Okay.

Blessing: Yeah, I think in Europe when I was in Italy, and I think this is also in Spain and some other European countries. They have the Lycamobile. It's very cheap. It's like five euros for the same. So, I just pop it in my iPhone and that's it. Ten euros lasted me for about two weeks.

Joke: Most phones can have the unlocked system now so it's quite easy.

Blessing: If you have Verizon, you can just call them to unlock your phone and it's free. Just tell them you're going out of the country.

Zim: What is Camille holding up? She's trying to get out attention.

Blessing: She's holding up Instagram pictures...

Zim:...of her travels?

Blessing: Yeah

Zim: So cute. Thank you Camille –that's very kind of you. Let's dive into culture a little bit. How is the work social culture different when abroad and how did you find a circle of friends?

Joke: For me anyways, I would say, I worked in Denmark and I work in the UK now and both cultures are completely different. Danes are more direct in how they communicate to you in the workplace but British are [illegible] and you have to go read between the lines. So, yeah there are a lot of cultural differences and that can play a part into how you maneuver yourself in different environments I think.

Zim: When anybody moved abroad, did any of you join an Expat group or find, you know, they have like brothers and sisters in Korea on Facebook or whatever? Did you join a group to sort of help you get active in your new surroundings?

Jessica: I've never joined an Expat group. I think it's really important when you're living abroad to be in that country. I can't stress that enough. Obviously, it depends on the situation like in Rome; it was a little bit different because I worked at the UN. So, it's a very international environment anyway. But, I did make it a point to have a lot of Italian friends. But, in Japan, I had Japanese friends and then, it was a little different. But, I think it's very important when you're living in a country to make friends with people who are from that country cause that's how you can get the full experience. That's how you can understand how people from that country are actually living. Obviously, you want to be around people that have experiences similar to you. But, I really think, I would say, avoid doing that at all costs.

Zim: So, what I did when I moved to India is I joined -there was an Expat group -and I joined that to find a place to live and I ended up choosing...I wanted to leave with somebody who was from India. So, that was my experience. That was something that I wanted. By living with somebody who was from that culture, when we were ever out, I spoke Hindi, but if we were ever out and I needed somebody to be a little buck behind me, she handled that and so I think that that is something that's also important when you're living abroad. If you need to feel comfortable with other people who are from your same background, try living with either one Expat and then somebody from the country that you're living in. It really does make a difference in terms of finding the local things and getting that full experience.

The last question that I want to ask before we turn to the audience to take questions is, I want everybody to answer, what is something about moving abroad that you wish somebody would have told you or having international clients, what is something you wish somebody would have told you before you sort of hopped in?

Joke: For me, I would say it would be to teach English as a foreign language to someone, I wish I had got that early on because I think that can take you anywhere. All you have to is have that diploma and you're good to go.

Zim: So, it's the T-O-E-F-L right or TOEFL?

Joke: TEFL

Zim: Oh okay. So, having that will open the doors for people who want to teach English. Alright, anyone else?

Will: First with me, I wish I could have told one of my clients that moved to Florence, Italy, I think he had a fashion internship in Florence and one thing that neither of us knew at the time was that the work culture is totally different. When you come fresh out of undergrad, especially in America, especially at a black college, you're really gung ho and you're ready to crank out twelve hour days and you're ready to dig your heels in and you get over there and work is kind of like...and also, it's something else that's going on, it's not just the culture of actually conducting labor is not as big a deal as in America and is not as heavy on their spirits in parts of France and in Italy as I would have thought it was.

So, you have things where he was getting upset at coworkers because they would go for lunch at 11 o'clock and wouldn't come back until like 4:40 or 5 o'clock. Okay, so this is a real deal. So, he Facetime'd me like "What are these people doing? They're leaving near at the beginning of the morning and I don't see them until the next morning." So, I guess that disconnect and those kind of subtleties can cause some disconnect between coworkers if you have to work in a collaborative environment and things like that. So, just understanding the work culture and how people view their jobs or the importance of their jobs in a team setting and stuff like that and different cultures. Having that kind of entail going there, it'll be beneficial.

Zim: Alright, anybody else?

Blessing: For me, I think it was more around building relationships because they always sort of sent me one week or two weeks so I don't have enough time to build solid relationships with people. But, you don't really have to be there face to face to continue a relationship. So, I think that for me, trying to really slow down and get to know people in various countries. As I moved, I think it would have been helpful. But, I still have a lot of friends that I talk to here and there overseas. Consciously now, when I go to any country, I try to find one or two people that I keep regular contact with.

Jessica: I think for me, I wish I would have known how my view of the U.S. would have changed and just really feeling like...I feel like growing up in the U.S., we're really led to believe that this is the best country in the world to live in and I just feel like there's so many other awesome places to live and it's really not until you leave that you can understand that. But, when I first left the country...well, when I first moved abroad, I had no idea what unlocking literally the entire world with places and opportunities for me to live. So, that's probably the biggest thing.

Zim: Awesome.

Sultan: I would say for me, the biggest thing would be, I wish somebody would have told me the important of learning another language or at least picking up bits and pieces of other languages of the country you're in, how people gravitate towards you for the simple fact that you are willing to engage in an aspect of their livelihood and not simple going over there as Jessica was saying with bravado that America is, end all be all where you can get by on just English and things of that nature. So, had I took more advice to that and learned more as far as language, I think that probably would have been the most beneficial thing that would have helped out a lot of my experiences abroad.

Zim: Awesome. Okay, now we're going to turn to both Twitter and our inboxes to grab questions from the audience. The first question is for the ladies. Men, you're not allowed to

answer this question. This question comes from Twitter. While traveling to developing countries, is there any advice that women have on quality feminine products?

Jessica: Girl, I hope you that with you. Bring that with you. Stock up! Let me tell you, I go to Costco, \$13 gets you 96.

Zim: When I was moving to India, I was there for I think 14 months. I went to Costco and I got I think maybe 15 boxes. I got a lot. I got a lot because in India, you just never know and it's better to be prepared than to be unprepared. Anybody else?

Jessica: Oh sorry.

Zim: Go ahead

Jessica: I was just going to say a little story. Me and my boyfriend at the time, we were doing a road between Croatia and [illegible] I had to stop and even in Eastern Europe, I was like gosh, what am I using. So now, no matter where I'm going, even for vacation because you never know what you're going to find.

Joke: I would say to take as much as you can with you. You just never know

Zim: Okay, that's cool. So gentlemen, sorry to make you uncomfortable; we're going to move on to the next question. This question is for everyone and it comes from Bethany. She said, "When I travel, I often get looks from foreigners. My brown skin and natural hair mark me as obviously exotic. The attention has always been fun. But, I wonder what the impact of being so obviously different would be if I decided to pursue business ventures abroad. I'm a designer and programmer so the work flow is almost guaranteed but I worry about being accepted. Has anyone else had that experience?"

Blessing: I have. I work in male-dominated field. When I travel, it's mostly with future bosses and executives and of course, I'm youngest and I'm the only black and I'm a woman. So, everything in my mind is against me. But, I think that just believing in yourself, and obviously Bethany has an amazing resume and I'm sure she's a smart lady and I think that just believing in yourself and [illegible] just like Jessica said, stop and take a seat at a table [illegible] go ahead and read it. I think it's really important if you want to travel. Another thing is there's a book that I picked up years before I started my career and it's "Get Ahead by Going Abroad." I don't know if everybody can see that. It's actually for a woman. So, it's a Woman's Guide to Fast-track Career Success and it talks about everything around being comfortable in a different country and being in a leader in a foreign county. I've basically presented to a CEO of a large company in Morocco, in France and just being comfortable and knowing that you have something to offer I think is the answer.

Zim: Absolutely. So, the next question comes from Charlese. So Charlese says, "I've been told by recruiters that it is nearly impossible to work in Europe as an American citizen. Are there any loopholes to working in the EU and outside of teaching, what other types of roles are in demand abroad U.S. or English-speaking talent?"

Jessica: So, I think there are answers to both. Number 1, a really good start is going to school in Europe because you get some sort of Visa waiver for one year after you graduate the University. Number 2, best loophole ever, international organizations. So, again, this is

mostly around development, foreign policy type of things; the UN. In Paris, you have OCD. In Europe, you have some UN agency. So, the UN is everywhere and that is I think a great opportunity to get through loopholes, which I mean a lot of reporters use that to get into the U.S. as well. So, great great place to start.

Joke: I work for a UK company and they love Americans that work in London.

Zim: Alright. So, the next question comes from Twitter and the question says, “Does anyone work in the brand and marketing industry? So, how easy is it to get experience abroad especially in Europe?”

Will: I guess got me I’m working closely with integrated marketing and those sort of departments with the other brands and stuff that I partner with, Sprite and Coca Cola obviously. As far as dealing and dabbling in other countries and other parts of the world, particularly Europe, I would say your best bet is to get an idea; each region has a branch manager and almost all of them speak English even if it’s not their first language. So, it’s very easy to get an email address or call a local brand manager or even intern for some of these companies in certain areas of have access to these email addresses and jump in there and email.

You’ll be surprised at how taken aback they’ll be at just...from you reaching out from whatever part of the world that you’re in and saying you’re interested because they don’t get that everyday. You know, they get internal memorandums and all of that stuff from their own offices. But, to have something random from the outside and in their inbox will kind of make the eyebrows jump. A lot of times, they’ll feel compelled to respond and if you have an idea that is unique or you have an idea as some of your other counterparts if you’re already within the organization or if you have ideas that can’t be mimicked or can be mutually advantageous to you and them, that could get you a follow-up conversation and that’s where all of the magic happens –in that follow up.

Zim: Absolutely. Anyone else wanted to add to that? No one?

Sultan: I can’t chime on the brand piece of it.

Zim: Okay, so Twitter really loves Camille Blessing—not surprising at all. So, they’re sending her some questions.

Blessing: Oh my! Go to Jetandplay.com and comment or tweet us.

Zim: Yeah, so Blessing started this blog called JetandPlay, and it’s a blog that sort of chronicles her adventures with Camille all over the world and it’s really fun and for those who have friends who are parents who don’t really think they can travel abroad or they can’t really make time with their kids, check out that blog, it’s really awesome.

The last question that I have is from Crystal. Crystal says that she is in the process of applying to graduate school in either public health or health administration and she’s interested in knowing what careers she could do internationally because she doesn’t want to attend any medical school after the master’s program.

Jessica: International development –global public health. There’s so many opportunities. There’s so many fellowships after you finish and it unlocks the entire world for you.

Zim: Absolutely

Sultan: I don't think you can go wrong with public health. It's a lot of places. It doesn't matter whether it's developing countries. Of course, you got our international careers. You can kind of launch off into international development. You have a whole plethora of government agencies, non government agencies, nonprofit that you can pretty much go to that you can go to that wouldn't be any problem to get your feet wet.

Zim: Awesome. Alright, so we are going to end the conversation. But, before we end, I want you to tell our viewers where they can find you online and we'll start with Will.

Will: Alright. Well, everyone can follow me. First, I want to say thank you to Zim and all of TN for inviting me on here because I really enjoy talking about some of what I do and all of that. Everyone, follow me on Twitter and on Instagram. Everything is the same. It's Will Worley -last name is W-o-r-l-e-y on Twitter and Instagram. Everything is the same across all platforms.

Zim: Alright, Sultan.

Sultan: You can find me at king_su53 and I'm going to pose some pics; travel related pics. I actually stopped. I cut off my Instagram for a minute so don't be discouraged if it's only about 15 pictures on there. So again, I also want to say thank you. This is my first time doing this and it's been great. I just want to leave everybody with one note. Just know that you can travel and traveling is not as difficult as you may think that it is. You just plan accordingly and have an open mind. I guarantee that there's a lot of opportunities out there. So, thank you again.

Zim: Alright. We're going to move to Blessing and Camille. Where can our viewers find you?

Blessing: Jetandplay.com...Instagram at @jetandplay and my personal Instagram, which I use to post all types of pictures is Blessing.O. I just want to leave you guys with one thing. The hardest part of landing an international assignment is getting the first one. Get one, no matter how small, even if it's two weeks. Go for it. Don't think about it. Just say no. Just like Sheryl Sandberg said, "Just get on the plane." Don't ask for what seat. Just go. Just get on because as soon as you take that first step, everything else follows.

Zim: Absolutely. Now, Camille, do you have anything that you want to say to anybody before we leave?

Blessing: Did you enjoy your travels?

Camille: Yes

Blessing: What's your favorite country?

Camille: Italy

Blessing: Or Venice?

Camille: Venice

Zim: Awesome. Alright Jessica, where can everyone find you?

Jessica: I am on Instagram and Twitter at @jnambowa, that N-a-m-b-o-w-a and I have a travel blog. It is www.thecatchmeifyoucan.com; lots of good stories from all over the world and the little [illegible] that I like to give and if I could leave everybody with something, I would just say be confident, be fearless and most of all, trust the universe because it will always inspire in your favor.

Zim: Alright Joke, where can everyone find you?

Joke: You can find me on Instagram @jorisocentric and you can find me on blogspot as well. You just Google jorisocentric and its j-o-r-i-s-o centric and since everyone's leaving with one thing, I would say learn a language. Just start with getting something from your library; French, Spanish, Italian. It's a start in getting to know the language and then pick up a course because it can take you places.

Zim: Alright. Last but not least, you can find me at @zimism... Z-i-m-i-s-m, I get it wrong every single time.. across all platforms. If I were to leave you with one thing, it would be to Google everything. Google is like your personal assistant for life. If you want to move abroad, if you want to work in X-country, if you want to do this, if you want to do that -I spent two months on Google trying to find a place to work abroad and so, use Google to your advantage. If everything else fails, Google will help you find your way somehow. So, with that said, I would like to thank our panel of curators plus Camille for hopping on despite some of our technical difficulties, we made it through and we'll catch y'all next time. Bye!