Putting Together An Effective U.S. Job Search Strategy For International Students

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So much more than writing a resume and sending it out to a gazillion employers!
How to put together an effective search:

1. Know yourself and what you are looking for
2. Understand the U.S. job market, employers' expectations and cultural norms
3. Develop appropriate job/internship search materials and approaches
4. Execute, persevere, **but have alternate plans** as well!

1. **Know yourself and what you are looking for**
   - Know yourself--What are your assets? What can you offer an employer? What problems can you solve?
   - What are you looking for--In which industry? What function?
   - Learn your visa rules--Work with the International Center
   - Start early--Your search will take longer than you think
1. Relevant Resources

Assessment Tools  
https://careercenter.umich.edu/secure/article/career-assessment-tools

Vault Campus Edition  
https://search.lib.umich.edu/databases/record/10657?query=vault

O’Net  
https://www.onetonline.org/

UCC Career Tracks  
https://careercenter.umich.edu/careertracks

Work Authorization  
https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/

Overarching resources  
International Center | *Your* School/College Career Services Office | UM University Career Center

2. Understand the U.S. job market, employers' expectations and cultural norms

- Grades alone are not enough--Emphasis on experience and co-curricular engagements
- Specific skills and traits--Ability to link personal background to employers' needs
- *YOU* have to do it--Importance of self-advocacy, initiative and networking
- Understanding of U.S. business communication and professional etiquette
2. Relevant Resources

UM Student Organizations
https://maizepages.umich.edu/organizations

Non-Work Study Campus Jobs
https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_FindAJob.aspx

The 7 Competencies You Need To Be Career Ready
https://careercenter.umich.edu/career-readiness

University Career Alumni Network (UCAN)
https://careercenter.umich.edu/content/university-career-alumni-network-ucan

UM LinkedIn and beyond
https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-michigan/

Handshake
https://careercenter.umich.edu/content/introducing-handshake

FluentU
https://www.fluentu.com/blog/business-english/business-english-communication-skills/

Professionalism in the Job/Internship Search
https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/professionalism

3. Develop appropriate materials and approaches

- Develop a resume/cv targeted to the industry or function in which you are interested
- Learn to craft tailored cover letters
- Develop a professional community--i.e. network!
- Stay organized: Build a target list of employers, positions pursued, and application status
- Familiarize yourself with various interviewing formats: behavioral, case, technical... and practice, practice, practice!
3. Relevant Resources

UCC International Student Resources
https://careercenter.umich.edu/article/international-student-resources

UCC Labs and Appointments
https://careercenter.umich.edu/contact/makeappointment

VMOCK (best for undergraduate resumes)
https://www.vmock.com/michigan

Non-Academic Job Search Resources for PhDs
https://careercenter.umich.edu/article/non-academic-job-search

English Language Institute Resources
https://lsa.umich.edu/eli/language-resources.html

Practice Interviews in the UCC and Your School/College
https://umich.joinhandshake.com/appointments/new/

4. Execute, persevere, but have alternate plans as well

- Make time in your schedule to execute your search--ongoing process; don’t wait to hear back before pursuing more options
- Continue to leverage your networks and adjust your approach accordingly
- Time to revisit salary negotiation, work authorization rules, but also to make parallel plans in home country and globally
4. Relevant Resources

On-going connections via UCAN
https://careercenter.umich.edu/content/university-career-alumni-network-ucan

How to Use LinkedIn's Alumni Tool for Networking

Myvisajobs.com
https://www.myvisajobs.com/

Internationalstudent.com
https://www.internationalstudent.com/

U.S. Dept. of Labor
https://www.dol.gov/

Goingglobal.com
http://www.goingglobal.com/

How to Negotiate Salary: 37 Tips You Need to Know

Glassdoor.com
https://www.glassdoor.com

Global Job/Internship Search (UCC Resources for International Students)
https://careercenter.umich.edu/article/international-student-resources

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So, to summarize:

1. Know yourself and what you are looking for
2. Understand the U.S. job market, employers' expectations and cultural norms
3. Develop appropriate job/internship search materials and approaches
4. Execute, persevere, but have alternate plans as well!

*Best of luck on your job search!!!*