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60 SECONDS WITH STACIE BERDAN

author, "Go Global!: Launching an International Career Here or Abroad"

You've written a guide to pursuing work abroad. Are things so bad here that getting a job in Greece is a good option?

It's not just about our economy here. My advice is to think globally, because the world has changed. And the global economy is creating different types of jobs.

What traits does a person need to thrive overseas?

One is adaptability. When you work in another country, things can be different. So you can't be rigid. Two, communication skills are critical because sometimes you're operating in cross-cultural situations you don't understand. Three, skill at building teams and relationships, because when you're working in an international environment, you don't have all the answers. Four, patience and persistence because things are done differently around the world, so people need to listen well and think before they speak. Fifth is curiosity and



open-mindedness.

What acquirable skills are important?

Bilingualism helps because it not only allows you to actually communicate with another person, it helps you understand the cultural backgrounds of a people. Another thing is to follow global markets, global industries.

What hot industries are offering opportunities for

international work?

They're always changing, but industries that are hot include finance. You can see the swing of things moving east to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore. The pharmaceutical industry is setting up a lot of R&D sites around the world for cost, but also to use indigenous plants and natural resources. Engineering and construction: Developing countries are putting in place highways, bridges, trains. And education. Universities are opening up campuses around the world so they can say, "We are a global university."

What are the rewards of working overseas?

It can fast-track people's careers. And 92 percent of people say they increased their salary working overseas. Plus, it's a notch on your resume. So many leading multinational companies say that to get to the top, you must have worked in another market.

— Brian Moore