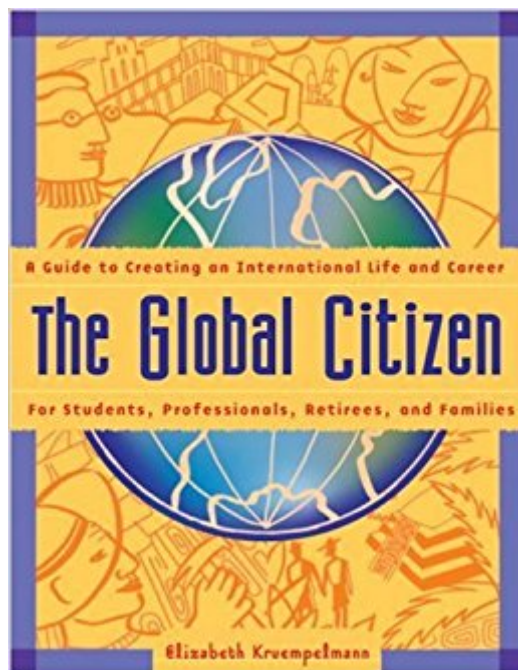




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The Global Citizen: A Guide To Creating An International Life And Career



Synopsis

If your dreams of career success include jobs in Prague or Munich, if you want to learn Mandarin while living in China, or if your travel plans always require a passport, then THE GLOBAL CITIZEN is for you. Written by Monster.com's former international career mentor, Elizabeth Kruempelmann, THE GLOBAL CITIZEN is an international life and career planner that walks you through the ins and outs of working, studying, volunteering, or living in a foreign country. Thought-provoking assessments will get you started on your global path, the interactive planner will keep you on track, and extensive resources will widen your possibilities. With tips for researching and funding your adventure, secrets to adjusting to life abroad, and hints for making the most of your experiences when (or if!) you return, THE GLOBAL CITIZEN presents a new approach to life planning no citizen of the world should be without.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is full of plenty of delicious details about how to go about planning the rest of your global future. --
Chicago Tribune, September 29, 2002

Elizabeth Kruempelmann is a sales and marketing consultant who speaks four languages and has lived in the United States, Denmark, Germany, Poland, and Portugal. The mother of a new baby boy, Kruempelmann lives with her German-born husband in Lisbon, Portugal.

If you are under 20, not sure what to do with your life and contemplating about how cool it is to

travel to Europe and save the rain forests - this book is perfect for you (even better if you want to save rain forests in Europe). Then, if you are not from US, don't have kickass amount of money to spend or know exactly what you want - bypass this title. The Global Citizen offers a lot of ways for an American to go abroad; if you live elsewhere, only 20% of all the suggestions are relevant to you. Of these 20%, most require significant investment. What's more important, neither of these ways is described in detail. Large sections of this book are dedicated to the fine art of proving that 2 and 2 equals 4. For example, the author dedicates 2 or 3 pages to explanation why it pays to know languages others than English. On the other hand, little to no useful tips are given on most important subjects, like convincing the foreign employer to hire you, or listing places with high expat concentrations, etc. Most of the work abroad opportunities are standard English teaching stuff - I don't need to buy a book to tell me about it, really. The book is full of howlers. Page 199: 450 - 2550 British pounds are translated as 310 - 1767 US dollars (neat, huh?). Page 88: Arctic Odysseys provides high quality travel experiences in the Arctic regions of Canada, Greenland, Siberia and China (someone please find Arctic China for me). Page 213: the author discovers a new country: Moldova-Ukraine. And this is just a small part. Again, good enough as introduction, many ideas, very low on details.

This book has some good nuts and bolts info on how to get abroad, but the authors' superficial experience of other cultures is evident throughout the book. First, there is much more to being a global citizen than being involved in global issues. The "think global, act local" mentality is lost here. Second, they present a simplistic model of cultures (linear-reactive, multi-reactive, reactive) and cultural "adaptation" that is not based on credible research. Third, according to the authors, volunteer work mostly occurs in developing places. (Not true- think global, act local.) Fourth, in one breath, they warn would-be volunteers to "be realistic" about what can be accomplished and then on the next page encourage them to circle items in a table including "disarmament" and "disaster relief." No mention is made of having the expertise to do those things. There is plenty of paid work abroad if you actually have the skills needed for the job. (e.g. an engineering, medical, or teaching degree). Giving advice is not easy, but I'd encourage the authors to make a few key points to their readers : (1) Your local sphere of influence is likely to be widest- act there. Read your local/state/national newspapers, vote, stay informed about what's happening where YOU live. Then think outside those borders- and bring what you're doing home, too. (2) Culture is complex. A good way to truly understand a culture is to spend time with people, not to take a 15-point test. As the authors encourage, learn the language. Spend time with people. (3) The issues where you live are

just as important to the people facing them as the development issues abroad. Be aware of the privilege you have and the systems of oppression that support your lifestyle. Speak up locally, don't assume all the issues are abroad. (4) Don't expect to change other people's lives. You might have a chance if you have the expertise they need. Do not ASSUME, however, they want this expertise just because you have it. In summary: "think global, act local", interact with people of other cultures in a real way, know yourself AND your privilege, and don't expect to change anyone except yourself.

The "Global Citizen" is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to travel or work abroad. Most importantly for me, this book has a wealth of information on careers abroad that I had not thought of before. Most career guides are so narrow in scope that I rarely find much use in them because they are so "8-5" in nature. The other cool thing about this book is that it's full of websites with info. on every aspect of living, working, or volunteering abroad. I love the personal stories in the section "A Global Citizen's Perspective" because, as a traveler, you can really connect to the experience of the author and other people who have done what you want to do. If you are looking for a life changing adventure, then travel abroad. If you want to stay abroad, then get this book!!

You can't help but get excited about the possibilities of an international lifestyle abroad with The Global Citizen as your guide. From engaging stories (from people who have actually done what you're dreaming of doing!), essential to-do's, and practical how-to's to heaps of international programs and resources, the voice of experience truly speaks throughout the pages. Now you just have to read through, take action (with help from Elizabeth!), and create your new way of life! A must for anyone who wants to live and work overseas.

The Global Citizen is a really great resource for people who want to learn about the on-line resources available to work, study, travel, and just find an experience that will suit each person abroad. Kruempelmann does a wonderful job of dividing the book up in sections to suit people with all different interests, backgrounds and approaches. She applies not only her broad base of knowledge but personal connections as well to give commentary on their enriching experiences abroad. A great resource for students at any level and really for anyone looking for an experience abroad!!!

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