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## **Information Interview**

### **Introduction**

At the moment, I am currently a business major with specialty in International Business. My primary goal in finding an appropriate person to interview was to find out what specific jobs are available to those with International Business degrees, especially considering that most use International Business as a secondary degree. Andrew Kalar, a Search & Planting Representative with Honda Trading America Corporation, graduated from Ohio State in 2011 with degrees in international business and Spanish. His degree has allowed him to work a variety of business-related jobs in international locations. Currently, Andrew is working in Marysville, Ohio after previously holding a position with Honda in Santiago, Chile. His job in Ohio, despite his degree, is primarily with operations and offer a completely different environment than what is normally expected of someone with an International Business degree. His responsibilities include researching how Honda factories work in order to later educate workers of newer factories in Mexico. Andrew's work environment is actually inside of the Honda factory where he can actively gain insight on Honda Operations, not only with its mechanics, but with its workers as well. Personally, Honda's atmosphere in Ohio is not what I had expected. It is somewhat casual in comparison to the formality I expect in International Business professions. However, this environment appears to be refreshing and different and is certainly something I will be putting into consideration with my career.

Andrew's Contact Info:

- 19900 State Route 739 Marysville, OH 43040-9140
- Direct Office: (937) 645-7559
- Andrew\_Kalar@htaoh.honda.com

### **Education, Skills, Abilities, & Career Paths**

Though careers within this field vary quite a bit, it may be necessary to become fluent in a foreign language if the primary business specialization is International Business. Andrew accomplished this by immersing himself in Chilean culture while five and a half months for completing a study abroad trip on top of minoring in Spanish while at Ohio State. As a result of his study abroad trip to Santiago, Chile, Andrew has been able to get a start in his career while still in Chile.

While coupled with other specialities, International Business students should be wary of how essential flexibility is to careers in this field. Andrew noted how compromise became important as he shifted his family's life from Chile to Ohio. Change oftentimes accompanies the line of work, considering that those with International degrees are preparing themselves to work within foreign countries. Additionally, it's essential to be considerate of one's speech while in foreign countries or working with foreign partners. American slang often does not correlate to foreign countries, and can result in offending someone of importance. It's imperative to become knowledgeable of foreign customs and traditions before completing business.

### **Past & Future of Position**

International Business is a vastly growing industry with the Trans-Pacific Partnership opening doors with both east Asian countries and South American countries, but this aspect of

business has been present for quite some time in the United States. In China, International Business is currently the number one major with Pacific trade potentially becoming larger than ever. Specifically, Operations & Logistics are a flourishing field for International Business majors as well as Accounting. The necessity of bilingual, or even trilingual workers is expanding rapidly. Andrew, as a Search & Planting Trade Representative, has the potential to become a manager and direct a team in the future. His current responsibilities may lead to management positions in other Spanish-speaking countries given his experiences in Chile and future experiences in Mexico. He noted that globalization is beginning to shift more local to the United States in order to spend less on transportation of goods. With newly educated As a result, language fluency in Spanish is set to become more vital than ever as more factories are set to open in Latin America.

### **Advice to International Business Majors**

Andrew stated that being involved with Fisher Connect has allowed him to be connect with his current boss. He also acknowledged that travelling abroad is the key to setting oneself apart. In learning another language, studying just at Ohio State is not enough. Fluency is more than just spending time in classrooms, it is actively learning about different cultures and spending time with people of these cultures to avoid culture shock while working. He also suggested that International Business Majors be wary of the hours at which they will be working. The hours are not always going to be in the Eastern Timezone. Earlier in his career, Andrew found himself having to communicate with Chinese partners for supplies at incredibly early hours over Skype. He also noted that language is a core part of International Business careers and that it may be necessary to use a secondary language on a daily basis. Early on, it's

necessary to begin preparing for having to not only speak, but think in the language as well when on the job.

## **Summary**

Prior to this interview, I barely had any knowledge on what exactly International Business entails. I had only decided on this major earlier because I had no idea what my other options were and because I wanted to avoid an accounting major. Now that I have the knowledge that International Business majors often need to accompany their International Business specialization with Operations & Logistics or Accounting, I am considering changing my major entirely. While I do want to incorporate Spanish into some part of my career, I cannot see myself doing Andrew's job. In Business Survey, my advisor mentioned that International Business often need a second specialization since it is such a broad topic. Andrew managed to find work without this, but I do not think that I will be capable of doing the same considering that he is actively doing a job that he did not get the knowledge for in school. During the interview, Andrew also stated that Human Resources is not as flourishing as a second specialization. As a result, I most likely will change my major to Human Resources, minor in Spanish, and study abroad to either Spain or a Latin American country. Despite the recent growth in International Business, I cannot see myself working with numbers or factory production, but I definitely want to become fluent in one or more languages.