Reading Comprehension
Chris: the experience

Activity 1
Think of some advantages and disadvantages of working abroad. Make notes in the table below. There is one idea in each column to help you get started.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of working abroad</th>
<th>Disadvantages of working abroad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Learn a new language</td>
<td>• homesickness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 2
Quickly read what Chris says about working abroad. Are any of your ideas mentioned?

**Advantages of working abroad**

“The big advantage I think of working in another country is it’s the only way for you to get to know the people in another country. You can always read about another country, you can read a travel guide, you can watch television and reports on television and read newspapers, but the only way you really get to know people, to understand their ideas and their ethical and social background, the only way to do that is really to visit a country and even better to live in a country.”
Status
“If you want to work in another country then you always have to overcome the normal difficulties of your degree being recognised by another institution, you're trained in a different country, you need visa and you need registration, specially for the medical professional, it's important. So before I came to the UK, to be able to work in the UK, I needed to register with the General Medical Council in the UK in London.”

Overcoming cultural differences
“I think the most important thing to overcome these cultural differences is to sit down with the people and talk, and what is very interesting for me is looking back over these years. If I look back, for example, and check who are my friends in this country, and most of my friends in this country are not German. I've only one very good German friend in this country and interestingly when we are together we very often speak actually English, not German which I think is very surprisingly initially for me.

And I think the more time I spend with people here outside my working hours, for example, sitting down in the pub, you know having a beer together and just chatting around, I think this is the best way for me to overcome cultural differences.”

Teamworking
“Certainly when I started here initially, it was a completely different approach of working style compare, for example, to a German Hospital. The system in Germany is very static and there's a lot of pressure, especially to perform well when you are a junior doctor. I was very impressed when I started initially on this post when the Chief Executive of the hospital said during the introductory session 'we are working here as a team, and team stands for together everyone achieves more'. That was a very impressive statement for me coming over from Germany where I felt team was not as important as every single person performs as well as one can.”
Activity 3
Read the text more carefully. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. According to Chris, the biggest benefit of working in another country is that you can earn a lot more money.
2. It’s usually very easy to get your qualifications recognised in another country.
3. Chris registered himself as a doctor after he had worked in the UK for several months.
4. Chris thinks that sitting and talking with people is the best way to get to know them.
5. Chris likes meeting his German friend so that he can speak in German with him.
6. Individual performance is the most important thing in the hospital in the UK.

Activity 4
Imagine that you are going to interview Chris. Write some questions you would like to ask him about his working experience. Then role-play the interview, or write a dialogue between Chris and yourself.
## KEY

### Activity 1
Suggested answers

<table>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There might be opportunities that don’t exist in your own country</td>
<td>• You will be further away from your family and friends at home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You can sometimes earn more money than in your own country</td>
<td>• Sometimes other cultures can be difficult to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You can visit places within and around that country</td>
<td>• You might feel like you don’t ‘fit in’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It looks good on your CV</td>
<td>• There can be problems if you aren’t fluent in the language spoken there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You can network with people from other countries</td>
<td>• You will need to adjust to a different way of doing things</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Activity 2
Students’ own answers, plus the advantage mentioned by Chris: *you can really get to know another culture and its people* (lines 1-5)

### Activity 3
1. According to Chris, the biggest benefit of working in another country is that you can earn a lot more money. *False – the biggest benefit is that you can really get to know another culture and its people* (lines 1-5)

2. It’s usually very easy to get your qualifications recognised in another country. *False – there are often difficulties with doing this* (lines 6-7)

3. Chris registered himself as a doctor after he had worked in the UK for several months. *False – Chris registered himself as a doctor with the General Medical Council before he went to the UK* (lines 8-9)

4. Chris thinks that sitting and talking with people is the best way to get to know them. *True (lines 11-12)*

5. Chris likes meeting his German friend so that he can speak in German with him. *False – when they meet they speak in English* (lines 14-15)

6. Individual performance is the most important thing in the hospital in the UK. *False – the Chief Executive said that working in a team is the most important thing* (lines 22-23)
The interview extracts on this worksheet can be found in the following section of Working Abroad:

Chris – The Experience
http://www.bbclelearningenglish.com/business/wab/chris1_2_1.shtml