Round-the-world race for graduate jobs

Forget "home, sweet home." These days, a growing number of young university and business school graduates — especially in Europe — are moving abroad for career opportunities.

Their career plans are driven both by better job prospects in more vibrant economies and by their generation's more global mindset. Millennials, who were born in the 1980s and 1990s, grew up more aware of the world outside their home country than earlier generations. They had more international experiences because of personal travel and study abroad programmes, and the internet brought the world to their laptops and cell phones. (...)

A 2013 survey of MBA (master of business administration) and other graduate business students by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) found that 23% of Europeans planned to seek jobs outside the continent, up from 15% in 2010. Even more undergraduates in several European countries hoped to work abroad: 42% of those surveyed in France; 40% in Italy; 37% in Spain; 30% in the UK; and 30% in Switzerland, according to Universum, a research and consulting firm. (...)

While more young Americans say they want some international work experience, they are still far less inclined than most other nationalities to venture abroad on a more permanent basis. (...) Some officials at universities in the US said that despite their awareness of global issues, many American students still aren't confident about fitting into another culture. Others believe more Americans would explore job possibilities abroad, but cannot afford to accept lower salaries offered in some foreign countries because they're saddled with so much student debt. (...)

(260 words)

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