

BECOMING AN  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONSULTANT

Gisele Maynard-Tucker

UCLA Center for the Study of  
Women

# STUDENTS' CRITERIA

- Tough, flexible, adaptable, pragmatic, focused, motivated.
- Applied anthropology Major, research experience, and languages.
- Specialization: Health, education, agronomy, economics, nutrition, administration, etc.
- Communication Skills.

# FIELD EXPERIENCE

- International field experiences.
- Familiarity with development literature, its language and agency projects.
- Short- or long term Consultancies.
- Short-term: 1 to 3 weeks or more.
- Long-term: 2 to 5 years.
- Learn to negotiate your contract.

# CHALLENGES

- Development agencies are located on the East coast, viable social network, gaps between contracts.
- Political situation of some countries.
- Heavy bureaucracies, limited funding.
- Health problems, sanitation and water.

# CAREER BENEFITS

- Independence, working under contract, traveling, knowledge of cultures, broadening of experiences.
- Career opportunities within development agencies.
- Teaching and research institutions.

# LESSONS LEARNED

- Better understanding of people's behavior and beliefs.
- Development work is not perfect, it is limited by funding and excessive bureaucracy.
- Ability to mediate between agencies, donors and informants.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Ask yourself if you have something to offer?
- Do you possess the required academic background?
- Do you have a strong interest in humanitarian work and an interest in cross-cultural experiences?
- Working in development will make you realize how enormous is the task of improving people's lives, but also how equally valuable are the possible personal and professional rewards.