



PATHFINDER

A CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER SERIES
FOR SUFFOLK'S GLOBAL STUDENT COMMUNITY



ABOUT THIS ISSUE

BY AKI VIVEKANANDAN

You've already achieved one of life's most formidable feats: establishing a new existence in an unfamiliar country. To have rebuilt your life from the ground up is not merely an accomplishment, but a profound testament to your inherent strength and unwavering spirit.

Now that you stand on this new ground, this unfolding chapter demands more than just adjustment; it calls for bold creation. While the initial phase of any international journey is undeniably filled with logistical hurdles and steep learning curves, a more profound and pivotal question invariably arises after those first few months: Who are you truly becoming here?

This very question is the genesis of transforming uncertainty into a powerful, actionable strategy. It is the crucial first step toward intentional self-discovery and purposeful growth.

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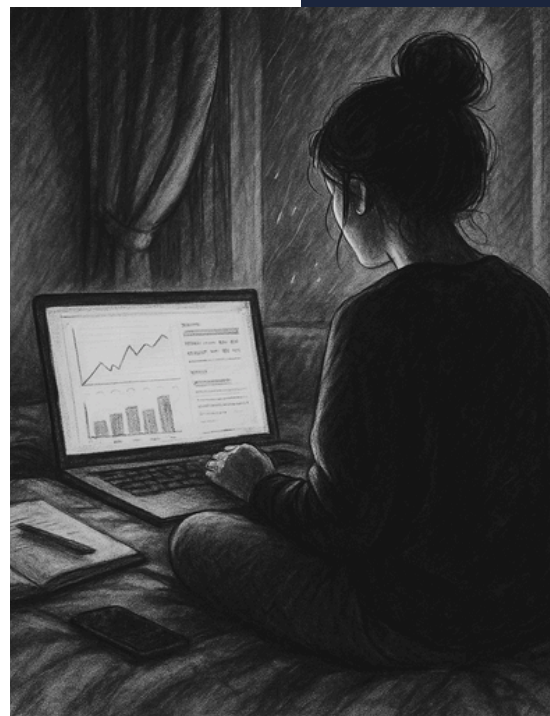
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TURNING UNCERTAINTY INTO STRATEGY

Entering a new culture reveals reflections of yourself you've never seen before. It brings into focus what you cherish, what you long for, and how others think, speak, and dream differently. This experience invites you to explore with genuine curiosity rather than judgment. Through this process, you discover your deepest values and the meaningful impact you aspire to create. This clarity becomes the cornerstone of every strategy you will craft moving forward.

Before setting your next objective, pause to reflect on what you have already accomplished. You have embraced changes that many might shy away from. You have mastered the art of communicating across differences. You have successfully navigated a completely new educational system. You have established connections and found your rhythm in a place that once seemed unfamiliar. Each of these experiences has already contributed to shaping your professional and personal identity.



Strategy doesn't always start with a five-year plan. It begins with self-awareness and understanding what you truly value. In unfamiliar environments, comparison becomes tempting. You may question whether others seem more confident or certain of their direction. But authentic strategy isn't measured by speed. It's defined by alignment. The more deeply you understand your own narrative, the more deliberately you can pursue opportunities that reflect your values and purpose.

Uncertainty is not your adversary. It is an invitation to pause, reflect, and design your next steps with genuine intention. We see you navigating this complexity, and we want you to know that you don't have to do it alone. At Suffolk, we are committed to supporting international students through every phase of uncertainty and growth. The Career Center, International Student Services, and our broader university community recognize the unique challenges you face and the extraordinary resilience you demonstrate daily. Whether you need guidance on career strategy, immigration pathways, or simply a space to process your experience, we are here. Your journey matters to us, and we are invested in helping you build the future you envision.

Take a moment to revisit why you chose this path. Reflect on the risks you embraced, the effort you invested, and the person you've evolved into since your arrival. Your story, this very story, is already evidence of strategy in action. The next step isn't simply to keep going. It's to keep growing with purpose, clarity, and unwavering belief in your own capacity to shape the future you envision.

CAREER INSIGHTS CORNER

FROM REFLECTION TO ACTION

You possess cultural agility, a form of intelligence that cannot be taught in a classroom. You've learned to read situations differently, adapt communication styles, and hold multiple perspectives simultaneously. Here are three ways to turn that awareness into strategic action:

- 1. Audit your experiences.** Every challenge you've navigated represents a transferable skill. Adapting to a new academic system demonstrates flexibility. Building friendships across language barriers shows emotional intelligence.
- 2. Identify your non-negotiables.** What values must be present in any opportunity you pursue? These anchors will guide you when faced with competing opportunities.
- 3. Build your narrative with intention.** Instead of "I had to adapt," try "I developed the ability to navigate ambiguity and create structure in unfamiliar environments." This reframing reveals the professional value within your story.

Remember: strategy built from self-awareness is stronger than strategy built from fear. You are already doing the hardest part by showing up.

VOICES FROM THE JOURNEY

The career journey is everything but a linear path. It's taking the time to edit my LinkedIn profile, making tailored resumes for multiple job titles, connecting with alumni and faculty. It's also doing the research and keeping notes of all the visa deadlines. Knowing all this is essential when communicating with employers, so everyone is aware of time constraints.

However, the job market is uncertain, and while the frustration runs high among many of us, it's an external factor we can't control. What we can control though, is our attitude. Choosing to not give up, getting industry-related certifications, networking with professionals and applying to jobs, is key. Keeping tabs (literally) on my job applications puts me in charge of this process and I can have a better overview of my progress.

Preparing for the future means preparing for all possible outcomes. It also includes the unfortunate realization I might not find a job here. And that's okay. Because I know I did everything in my power to get one. Most importantly, I know I'm not a failure, because the state of the job market doesn't reflect my skills and intelligence.

Remember: you control the job search, not the other way around.



AGATA NICOLAE
MA IN COMMUNICATION
CLASS OF 2025 (DEC)
HOME COUNTRY:
ROMANIA

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How do I balance honoring my background with fitting into this new culture?

You don't have to choose. The most powerful professionals integrate multiple cultural frameworks rather than abandon one for another. Your ability to move between worldviews is precisely what makes you valuable. Authenticity means being honest about where you come from while remaining open to where you are.

What if my goals change as I learn more?

Changing goals is not a failure of strategy. It's evidence of growth. Strong strategy includes flexibility. What matters is that each pivot is intentional, not reactive.

How do I explain transitions in my path to employers?

Reframe changes as strategic recalibrations. Every shift taught you something about what you need to thrive. Employers value self-awareness and adaptability. Articulate what you learned and how it informed your next decision.

VOICES FROM THE JOURNEY



DHAWAL NAWAL
MS IN FINANCE
CLASS OF 2024
HOME COUNTRY: INDIA

I grew up in the small town of Ajmer, Rajasthan, India—where ambition often meant stepping into the unknown. After earning my Chartered Accountancy qualification, I moved to Mumbai to begin my professional career and soon realized that staying relevant in today's financial world meant constantly evolving. That realization became the turning point that led me to pursue higher education abroad.

While working at KPMG, I balanced the pressures of a demanding audit role with graduate school applications. It was a period filled with uncertainty — from navigating university admissions and finances to planning a new life in a different country. Yet, I chose to view those challenges as opportunities to strategize and grow rather than reasons to hold back.

At Suffolk University, I found a community that helped me translate knowledge into impact. Every course, project, and conversation reinforced my belief in continuous learning. My internship at Welspun Tubular, a U.S.-based oil and gas manufacturer, allowed me to apply my classroom skills in real time. What began as a summer internship extended into the fall and eventually led to a full-time role as Senior Accountant in Finance and Accounts.

Through each phase of this journey — from Ajmer to Boston to my current role in the United States — I've learned that uncertainty often carries hidden opportunities. The key is to stay consistent, seek mentorship, and remain open to learning from every experience.

To today's students who may be navigating their own uncertainties: remember that every uncertain step is still a step forward. With clarity, resilience, and belief in your abilities, you can turn uncertainty into your greatest strategy.

UPCOMING EVENTS: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

CHEW ON THIS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, November 19th | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM |
120 TREMONT STREET, SARGENT HALL
5th FLOOR, SMITH COMMONS

This event will feature 4 international students who share what it means to be an international student to them.



LEANNE DOLAT

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
ADVISOR, CIESA**

EMAIL LEANNE: For questions about the upcoming events

POST GRADUATION IMMIGRATION SESSION

Wednesday, November 19th | 3:00 PM-4:30 PM |
120 TREMONT STREET, SARGENT HALL
4th FLOOR, ROOM 438

This event will feature immigration lawyers who can discuss immigration pathways post OPT and how to navigate your immigration options as a professional.

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY AND STUDENT MIXER

Wednesday, November 19th | 4:00 PM-5:00 PM |
73 TREMONT STREET, STAHL BUILDING
4TH FLOOR, INTO LOUNGE

Meet international student and faculty, enjoy food from around the world, and build lasting connections through fun activities and networking.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Friday, November 21st | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
120 TREMONT STREET, SARGENT HALL
1st FLOOR, KECHES ROOM

Celebrate the international student community and enjoy the food and culture from around the world.



AKI VIVEKANANDAN, MS

**FOUNDER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF
OF PATHFINDER**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
GLOBAL CAREER STRATEGY AND
PARTNERSHIPS, CAREER CENTER**

EMAIL ME: To be featured in the next issue and for feedback.