Search Associates Job Fair Summary

Last weekend, I attended the Search Associates Job Fair in San Francisco. Search Associates represents several hundred different international schools from all around the world. The website also gives opportunities for teachers and educators to apply for international teaching jobs. Applicants or candidates create an application online that is visible for all of the schools registered on the website. Each school also has a profile that includes available positions, salary expectations, living arrangements and other important hiring information. Prior to the job fair, I completed research on which schools I was interested in. I am interested in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) positions.

The first part of the fair was an orientation that prepared us for how to navigate the job fair. After orientation, there were scheduled presentations from most of the schools who were attending the job fair. They gave presentations on the country as well as their school. It was interesting to attend presentations for countries that I had never heard of before such as Myanmar. After attending some of the presentations, the interview sign ups were about to begin. During the interview sign ups, each school had a booth and the candidates walked around to the schools they were interested in and tried to set up an interview.

I received two emails prior to the interview sign ups from two schools that wanted to set up an interview with me. I visited both of the booths of each schools and scheduled interviews for the following day. My first interview was with a private elementary school in Beijing, China and my next interview was with an elementary school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. My interview with China was very positive and she asked me a lot of thought provoking questions. At the end of the interview, she offered me a position. However, China’s work visa law states that teachers must have a teaching credential and at least two years of teaching experience outside of college. Since I do not have a teaching credential right now, this position did not work out.

My second interview was with Saudia Arabia and they offered me a position after a quick interview. They gave me 24 hours to think about their offer and I ended up not accepting it. I didn’t feel like it was the right decision in my heart and I didn’t connect to the women I interviewed with. Overall, it was a very educational experience and I would definitely go again.