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Key findings from the IGLTA Foundation study:

Building Cultural Immersion, Connections and Confidence for 2SLGBTQI+ Travellers aged 18-35



Challenges in Traveling and Working Abroad

Traveling and working abroad can present many challenges. Overcoming these is often part of the transformational experience that travel can bring. Yet 2SLGBTQI+ participants may encounter additional challenges when applying, traveling for leisure, or working in their chosen destination.

Challenges while working

- Perhaps reflecting broader concerns among Gen Z in the world of work, the biggest challenge experienced was in finding a job that would match participants' skills and interests (41%), as well as their desired salary/conditions (41%).
- Getting access to healthcare (27%) and finding short-term employment (24%) were also concerns among former travel and work participants.

Challenges while traveling

The top challenges that 2SLGBTQI+ travel and work participants said they'd encountered while traveling in general include:

- Balancing free time with work commitments
- Visiting all the places they wanted to see in the time available
- Having enough spare income to travel
- Isolation and loneliness

Feeling lonely

Loneliness and isolation were strong themes in this study, with 1 in 4 former participants having experienced it during their time abroad. This reflects broader challenges faced by Gen Z and Millennials who are growing up and entering the workforce in an 'age of anxiety'. It highlights the importance of helping 2SLGBTQI+ travelers to find their community while abroad — bonds which will hopefully last a lifetime.

Supporting 2SLGBTQI+ travel and work participants

It's important to keep in mind that travel and work participants may encounter a variety of challenges related to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, depending on where they're coming from or going to.

It's important to ensure that those working with young adults are aware of concerns that 2SLGBTQI+ participants may have at every stage of their journey, from inspiration through to applying, booking and experiencing life in another country.