

Get a job in Australia

“Show you’re the perfect candidate for the job”

Getting a job abroad is a fantastic way to integrate, meet new people and develop new skills that will, in turn, prove incredibly beneficial when you apply for jobs in your home country or elsewhere abroad.

In Australia, job hunting can be fiercely competitive, with often many stages and hurdles before you even get an interview. These suggestions will help you not only present yourself in a brighter light but will also demonstrate to your potential employer why you’re the perfect candidate for the job.

Understand your work rights

International students in Australia, on a valid student visa, can work for up to 40 hours per fortnight while classes are in session and unlimited hours when class is not in session. Hours of work that are required as part of your studies will not count towards your ‘40 hours’ and most volunteer and unpaid work is okay too. If you choose to break these restrictions you are at risk of having your visa cancelled.

Do your research

Make sure you fully understand what the role entails and what the company does. This will make your application easier to assemble and will make it easier when it’s time for the interview. Each application should be specifically tailored to the role you are applying for, don’t make it generic.



Employers are looking for candidates that have a true desire to work with them and aren’t just submitting 100 applications randomly.

Try your hardest to find out the name of the person who will receive your application and formally address the application to them, rather than ‘To whom it may concern’.

Read and address the job description

There are four main parts to any job description. Your application should address each one and articulate, using examples, how you fulfil each of these.

- How the employer works and what it expects of its

employees.

- The day-to-day responsibilities and duties of the role. Your previous work history should have skills and experiences that are transferrable to this role.
- The qualities, knowledge and skills required for the role. Include specific examples or situations where you have demonstrated the qualities they are seeking.
- Sometimes specific qualifications will be required and form part of the screening process for the employer.

Resume and cover letter that gets attention

- Resume: Your job history, starting with the most recent. Keep the descriptions short, to the point and relevant to the job you are applying for. Format the layout to your own unique, professional style so that it won’t look like others.
- Cover Letter: Clear, concise and easy to read; try and keep this shorter than one page. This is essentially a letter directed to the person responsible for hiring and will describe a little bit about yourself, why you would like to work with the prospecting employer and explain how you align with each of the selection criteria.

Follow up your application

Put yourself in their shoes; the employer has to filter through an abundance of applications often on top of their usual workload. Make finding you easier and you’ll stand more of a chance. Call them and be friendly, it shows that you are eager and have initiative. Australian’s appreciate people who are driven and determined.

Prepare for the interview

You may encounter a broad range of interview styles. From casual lunches to phone interviews to group interviews, the most important thing is to be

prepared, be positive and be yourself.

Situational Questions:

These are one of the most common forms of interview questions. You will be asked to demonstrate your competency for a task by describing a time in which you handled something similar in the past. Take your time to answer the questions properly; we suggest using the STAR approach when responding to ensure your answers are structured, don’t miss out on key elements and finish strong.

Situation: Where and when you had the relevant experience.

Task: What was required of you for this experience.

Action: What you actually did in this instance.

Result: How the situation played out and was benefitted by your action.

Do the work behind the scenes

Find out when they plan to make their hiring decision. This will provide you with a timeline and you can follow up if you have not heard anything since the meeting.

If successful, the employer may wish to speak to people who can validate your credentials; these are known as your referees (it’s a good idea to include these on the end of your resume).

Have at least two people ready who will be able to speak positively about you in a relevant and occupational sense, don’t choose friends. 

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