

# HOW TO FIND YOUR DREAM JOB

Finding work in Australia isn't harder than in the UK – it's just different – so it's good to have an understanding of the process before you land, *writes Karen Bleakley* >>



Some occupations are so in demand that you can secure a job while you're in the UK. For others, you need to be in the country before anyone will consider talking to you.

We've learnt a lot about the job market during the two years we've lived in Brisbane, from our own experience and that of our expat friends.

## BEFORE YOU MOVE

Spend time looking on forums and Facebook groups to see if you can find anybody in your industry. Ask about their experience of moving and finding work.

Look into getting your qualifications recognised. For instance, my husband Matt's UK engineering qualifications are equivalent to a Certificate IV over here. Listing his UK qualifications on his CV (known as resumé) would mean nothing to employers. There are agencies that can transfer the qualifications over for you.

Some occupations need registration which can take time, so look into the



encourage a reply. If they reply and you can continue a conversation, search for them on LinkedIn and add them to your network as this will keep you in their mind. List your contacts in a spreadsheet so you can keep track of everything.

Search job websites and apply for jobs before you move. **Seek.com.au**, **Indeed.com.au** and **Gumtree.com.au** are great

drop your resumé in. Upload your resumé to the job websites so that employers can find you in their searches, and contact the employment agencies again and arrange to meet with consultants. Meeting face-to-face will help them remember you.

## ONGOING JOB HUNTING

Maintain regular contact with employment agencies. Keep phoning and, if you see them advertise a role they haven't contacted you about, make sure you contact them. You want to be at the front of their mind when that perfect job comes in.

If you see jobs advertised on Seek, consider phoning to ask questions about it. It will make your application more memorable when it arrives.

Check website job alerts daily. Find out if there are any suitable networking events or industry events you can attend.

If there's a conference running, order some business cards online and go along to see what contacts you can make.


## MAKE CONNECTIONS

My husband has had two jobs since we arrived in Australia and both were through personal recommendation – neither job was advertised.

Personal connections can make all the difference in certain industries in Australia – many jobs never get advertised as they go to people who are already known by the company. This is pretty daunting to hear as the chances are, you don't have any connections. Yet.

Your best chance of getting a job fast is to get into the local network as quickly as you can, so that when a job comes up, you're the obvious choice.

Thankfully, with LinkedIn, email and social media, it has never been easier to start building connections before you even get on the plane.

If you have a killer resumé, a positive mind-set, a wide network and you're persistent, there's no reason why that dream job Down Under isn't yours for the taking. 

## “LOOK INTO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR OCCUPATION SO YOU CAN GET ORGANISED AHEAD OF YOUR MOVE”

requirements for your occupation so you can get organised ahead of your move. This is important as it could cause delays starting work.

Set up or update your LinkedIn profile. Your profile should show what benefits you provide rather than listing your skills – people want to know what you're going to be able to do for them.

Create an epic resumé! You need to stand out in a crowded job market where you're up against Australian citizens who have local work experience.

To do this, make sure you use a well-designed template (if design isn't your thing, you can buy these cheaply online).

Next, make sure your resumé shows how you've added value to the companies you've worked for. Telling very short stories makes your resumé engaging and memorable.

When it looks incredible, send your resume to as many relevant businesses as you can before you leave the UK. Do your best to find named contacts. In your cover message, try to ask a question to

sites to check regularly. Search for any industry-specific job sites too.

Look for suitable employment agencies and send them your resumé before you move. Find out the process for registering with them and ask questions about the local job market as they may be able to give you some tips and ideas about upcoming opportunities.

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Update your LinkedIn profile to show you are now in the country. Email your resumé again to relevant businesses to tell them you're now in the country.

If anyone had previously sent back a positive reply, offer to have a meeting with them. Better still, if the company is local, call into the office in person and



■ Karen Bleakley is a Brisbane-based travel writer and founder of Smart Steps to Australia, a website that helps UK families navigate their way to a dream life in Australia. For migration tips, checklists, step-by-step-guides, a list of reliable experts and a supportive community to help you every step of the way, visit [www.SmartStepstoAustralia.com](http://www.SmartStepstoAustralia.com) and sign up to the email list on the homepage.