

Making it work

With exams and final assignment deadlines fast approaching, it's time to start thinking about what happens next.

If you are at the start of your course then "Whoopie – holidays are coming!" and make sure you pick up the November issue of *Utimes* for all sorts of ideas about things to do over summer. But if this is your final year, the dreaded 'J' word starts creeping into the equation.

Finding the right job is not easy and there are lots of options you can pursue. But whichever path you take, there are ways to give yourself the best chance of success.

Apart from having that piece of paper that says you know how to do something, bosses are nearly always looking for other skills on top of this that reflect what sort of person you are. They want you to show good


communication skills and problem solving abilities. They want you to show leadership, flexibility and the ability to transfer your skills across different situations.

When putting yourself forward to a prospective employer, make sure you highlight your abilities in these areas, as well as all those high distinctions you have achieved.

And investigate prospective employers by digging down a bit into the job on offer. Find out what the total benefit package is, including remuneration, professional growth and development possibilities and whether you will enjoy doing the job. Will it provide the level of excitement and responsibility you seek and will you be

able to see the results of your work.

There is nothing wrong with aiming high in the job you seek, but remember your prospective boss might have a less grand vision of what your starting salary and starting position on the company pecking order will be, so prepare for any possible shock.

Nonetheless, the job hunting process is a two-way street and both you and the employer need each other. By understanding the employer's as well as your own specific needs and skills puts you in a position to help find a match and the process can be a great way to demonstrate your good communication skills and problem solving ability. 



More than a cheap suit

Work experience is a chance to put on an opp shop suit and walk around corporate companies with a clipboard looking for the chance to "make contacts."


I can see you now, hanging around your dream "grown up" work destination in a tight velvet suit saying: "Hi, I'd really like to learn, is there anything I can do for you?"

Don't mind if they say back to you: "No thank you - does your university know you're here?"

Keep working that introduction, shift

strategies around from playing shy to giving wide deranged smiles to friendly taps on the shoulder.

"Thank you so so so much for this experience, you're sure there's nothing I can do? What, you want me to jump on a train heading to Bendigo and stay there? No worries, sir. Thank you again for this opportunity for work experience."

Ok, whether you play that card is up to you, there are many ways to deal with work experience. 

Anna Kosmanovski

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