

Join a graduate program

“Fun and games with IBM is mandatory”

IBM is one of the world's biggest companies, it's up there with McDonalds, but working for IBM you won't have to sell your soul trying to clog people's arteries with McJunk. Instead, you'll be working for one of the world's largest corporations, at the plush IBM headquarters in Southbank. That is if you want to work in Melbourne. One of the advantages of working for such a large company (350,000 employees worldwide, with 10,000 in Australia) is that you can be certain of career growth and within a worldwide company, anything or anywhere is possible.

IBM's key motto is the qualities of "Training, development, progression, support, flexibility, respect, balance." In today's age where it's easier to hire new staff than retain old staff, IBM knows

that retaining employees, and keeping them happy, is important. Flexibility and life balance are important qualities for employees and this is understood by IBM.

To apply for IBM graduate positions, note that you need to have graduated within the last 18 months and have not more than 18 months of relevant work experience. The Fresh Program is also available to new graduates, a concept where graduates come together to brainstorm solutions that IBM are facing. This is indicative of IBM's faith in graduates.

The IBM Company – clearly one of the world's richest company – is also involved in philanthropy. Employees have the opportunity to volunteer through IBM, and their volunteering may mean trips overseas, whether it be to build an orphanage in Cambodia or houses

in the Philippines. All while you're at work! With some employers it's not all fun and games, but with IBM this is mandatory! Graduates are encouraged to feel comfortable at work, whether it is participating in corporate games or attending graduate social functions.

Whatever the case, IBM prides itself on looking after graduates and making sure they have a support network. Graduates are assigned a mentor, a senior IBM employee, and they are monitored and encouraged to give feedback.

There is also scope to move around, if that would be beneficial to both the company and the employee. For example, a graduate may be recruited for their programming skills, but they may unexpectedly excel in business analysis instead. IBM

respects employees' wishes to move around if they wish, and unlike some rigid contracts in companies, this is actually a feasible option.

Graduates who come from a non IT background should not dismiss IBM. In fact, IT is just one area that graduates can enter. Apart from expected areas like computers and information management, there are also the fields of business and communication technology, information architecture and media and communications. There are also jobs available in the graphic design sector, media arts and production and design and visual communication sectors.

Apart from the graduate program, IBM also offers work experience and internships. [▶](#)

Anna Kosmanovski



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as a complete career or as a part time occupation I definitely recommend becoming a personal trainer with the Australian Institute of Fitness."

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