

JOB HUNTING DURING LOCKDOWN

Being pro-active, creative and adaptable are the keys to success!

Whether you were job hunting before the lockdown started, or you are now job hunting because you've recently lost your job as a direct result of the lockdown, there's no doubt that you will need to be adaptable and focused to get back into work quickly.

We are all facing an unprecedented time and with so much uncertainty it's difficult to plan a long term job hunting strategy. What you can do though is take control over your short term actions and aim to focus on solutions that will help you to come out of the other side of this crisis and move your career forward.

The market is changing quickly, so adapting to the new reality and understanding how these changes impact your job search can help you to create a practical approach that gives you a better prospect of a successful outcome.

Over the next few weeks we will be sharing up to the minute market advice and guidance from our expert career coaching team and providing practical links and resources to help you navigate your way through this turbulent environment.

IN THIS SERIES TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Thinking short term whilst planning for the longer term**
- **Expanding your job search into new areas and identifying vacancies**
- **How to demonstrate your transferable skills**
- **Adapting your approach to CVs and interviews**
- **Staying organised and maintaining pace**

PART 1 - GET THE BALANCE RIGHT BETWEEN SHORT TERM ACTIONS AND LONG TERM PLANNING

Whatever your situation, whether you were in the middle of a well-planned job hunting strategy or you are faced with unexpected job loss, right now it's important to focus on what actions you can take over the next 30 days and then, if necessary, think of your ongoing job search in 30 day "sprints".

This is not the time to worry about taking a job that looks inconsistent or odd on your CV. All employers will recognise that these are unprecedented times and no one will think badly of you in future for taking a job that is well below your level of experience, or completely different to anything you've done before. Every hiring manager will be meeting candidates who have done the same and they will understand. This is not about forever, it's about right now. Draw on your skills of resourcefulness, solutions orientation and networking to explore jobs you may have not considered in the past, and perhaps you'll find opportunities you wouldn't have previously pursued which will help to get you through.

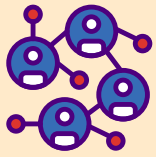
There are many reports of hiring in areas such as delivery drivers, fork lift truck drivers, various warehouse roles, retail staff, healthcare sector, support workers, help line/call centre, administration, project planning, engineers. [Click on this link](#) to see just some of the industries hiring right now.

Of course there will be roles which have no appeal to you, or for which you do not feel you are suited. Don't dismiss potential opportunities by focusing only on one role type. For example there are lots of reports that supermarkets are hiring shopfloor staff. This will drive further requirements, albeit perhaps temporary, for administrators, recruiters, interviewers, HR specialists, trainers etc. so think laterally when you see vacancies.

However tough the current situation, remember that this will not last forever. It's important to keep an eye on your longer term career strategy. Use this time to:



Research companies you are interested in joining. Spend time mapping key contacts from these business so that when the time is right you can reach out to them. Read their annual reports and updates so that you can identify trends that might lead to future job opportunities for you. LinkedIn is an excellent resource for research, and if you have access to PowerMyCareer, take a look at Mint Global.



Stay visible. Post and share more on your social media profiles. Keep connecting with new contacts and reconnecting with old colleagues.



Keep learning. Take advantage of the massive increase in free online resources that has exploded over the last few weeks.


Join a webinar, listen to a podcast, download an assessment tool, take an online learning course, practice your video interviewing skills, download some trial psychometric tests. PowerMyCareer is a great source of online learning - and, if you have support options to use, speak to your Personal Career Manager about Skillsoft and Video Arts - both excellent learning tools!



Make a plan. It's easy to convince yourself that at the current time it's not worth trying to job hunt. Although it's inevitable that there will be delays and diversions in the hiring process, this is the time to make a plan and stick to it. Consistency, persistence and open-mindedness are the watch words in this situation.

Get in touch to discuss the support that we can provide at this time.

Keep an eye out for next weeks article - 'Expanding your job search into new areas and identifying vacancies'.

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