

## **International Job Search**

With the Irish economy showing no signs of a fast recovery, many people are now actively exploring career opportunities overseas. Whilst local and international job searches share many of the same characteristics, they differ in subtle yet significant ways..... so in order to maximise your chances of success, it is important to do your homework.

### **Same same but different:**

Curriculum Vitae vary from country to country and it is *essential* to follow local etiquette. Photographs are included in mainland European CVs but are not considered acceptable in Ireland, the US or the UK. US resumes are normally one page in length and take a very high level approach whilst Irish and British CVs are more detailed, often covering 2 to 3 pages. Typed cover letters are standard in most countries yet French companies favour hand written letters as they use graphology as a means of selection in the application process. Do your research to find out how to write an appropriate CV for the country that you are targeting.

If you are still based in Ireland whilst applying to overseas positions, include an explanation in your cover letter as to *why* you want to move country. An employer needs to be reassured that you have seriously considered relocating. Including a local address will also strengthen your application.

### **Networking:**

When looking for international jobs, make sure you use your network effectively. Most universities have alumni associations which hold regular networking events overseas. Sporting organisations can also be an invaluable source of contacts – the GAA, Hash House Harriers etc. Tell as many people as possible that you are looking for a role abroad and build your contacts on social network sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook.

### **When in Rome.....**

Learn the most effective way of finding a job in your target country. Don't assume the Irish way is the best way. In Spain and Italy, for example personal contacts count for a lot. In Italy, looks matter and significant attention is paid to grooming. Interview styles also differ. In some cultures the interviewer will wait for you to "sell" yourself whilst in others you may be expected to listen carefully and respond only when prompted.

### **Conclusion:**

A work experience abroad can be a fantastic experience, both professionally and personally. Enjoy the journey. Bon Voyage!

### **About the Author**

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