

Job seeking during the Corona Virus Outbreak

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Job searching during the Corona virus outbreak? There are still jobs out there, so continue your job hunt and here are some tips:

1. Prepare for a telephone or online interview. Have you got the equipment and a quiet place? Interviewing online or via the phone is different to in person, know the difference and prepare for it. Be prepared to answer questions about your health / travel as companies might need to assess your risk of being exposed to the virus. If you do meet in person, it is ok not to shake hands. As with all interviews, be prepared to ask some questions. It is wise to ask about the financial position or growth plans of a company.
2. Eventually you are most likely to be working at the premises so ask about the location and for a virtual tour (if possible) or a description, especially if the work environment is important to you. Find out about the working from home support and culture on offer.
3. Demonstrate your ability to work from home, for example perhaps show them the space you have set up and / or refer to work from home situations you have previously done successfully
4. Consider freelancing, temporary, contract or casual work. Be more flexible with work arrangements. Be prepared to state your hourly or daily or weekly rate. Perhaps promote your skills on freelancing sites such as Expert360. Now might be the time to change your mindset from a career move to a job / income earning opportunity.
5. Upskill. Consider online learning through sources such as LinkedIn Learning, General Assembly, Grow with Google. You might prefer to do a 'live' or curated course so that you are more motivated or feel connected. It is hard to be accountable when the course is delivered just via powerpoint.
6. In your LinkedIn profile update your job 'career interests' to tick remote work

7. Consider searching for a job that is a modified version of your skill set. For example, if project management was part of your previous job responsibilities but not your full role you may now seek a project manager role. Or perhaps now is the time to step out of your comfort zone and try something new.

8. Consider industries that are still thriving and demonstrate how your skill set is relevant or transferable, for example these industries are doing well: health, IT, construction, supermarkets, insurance, banks, call centres, online education

9. Networking is still very important. Look for online networking opportunities. Many events have converted to virtual events, join them and be active. Refer to your industry association as they might be promoting some virtual events. LinkedIn groups are also a great place to network. Or just keep reaching out to people and organise to have a virtual coffee.

10. Be in touch with recruiters. Find out if the job opportunity still exists as there might be a hiring freeze or they might have some general advice for you.

11. Expect job offers and interviews to be put on hold and be prepared that for some roles salary offers may be lower than expected

There are fewer job openings in the foreseeable future, and this means a more competitive search. So, it's even more important to know how to stand out and to put your best foot forward. Stay positive as it is very easy to be inactive and blame all the reasons why it is hard to find a job.