

# Career and Job Search Support for International Students

In this tipsheet, you will learn:

- Practical tips to prepare for your job search in Canada
- Guidance on how to access the “hidden job market” through networking
- Career and job search resources available to international students at Queen’s

If you have questions, we encourage you to meet with the **Career Educator and Coach for International Students** or attend **Drop-In Career Advising at the QUIC**. More details are available on the [MyCareer portal](#) and on the [Queen's University International Centre \(QUIC\) website](#).

## Job Search and Networking: The Hidden Job Market

Whether you are starting your job search for the first time or bringing previous work experience from another country, it is important to learn how jobs are found in Canada. Many students apply for dozens of positions and never receive a reply. While this can be discouraging, following the advice below may increase your success:

Review your resume to ensure it meets Canadian standards (or have it checked at Career Services).

- Write tailored cover letters that highlight your strengths for each position.
- Focus on networking rather than sending the same resume to many employers.
- Research and target employers that match your goals.
- Always customize your resume and cover letter to the specific role.
- Be realistic about your qualifications and match them with employer needs.
- Highlight transferable skills with specific examples from past experiences.
- Include your international experience and language skills, they are valuable assets.

While job boards like LinkedIn and Indeed are useful, most positions in Canada are filled through referrals or networking. Some opportunities are never advertised at all – this is called the **hidden job market**. Start building your network early, even if you are new to Canada. Your network might include classmates, instructors, teaching assistants, part-time job colleagues, volunteer contacts, student clubs, sports teams, or cultural groups.

You can also explore resources such as the [Career Prep Modules in OnQ](https://onq.queensu.ca) (onq.queensu.ca) to strengthen your skills and strategies.

## Work Culture

Canadian employers may expect behaviours that are different from what you are used to. For example, direct eye contact, smiling, and speaking up are considered polite and confident in Canada. In other cultures, the same actions may feel less natural or even disrespectful.

You may also notice differences in application materials. Canadian resumes, cover letters, and interviews may not follow the same format or expectations as those in other countries. Review the [Career Prep Modules](#) on Resumes, Cover Letters, and Interviewing to understand local standards and present yourself effectively.

## Support & Resources

To learn more, explore our module [Getting Started: Career Success in Canada for International Students module](#).

Our **Career Educator & Coach for International Students** can help you:

- Explore career options
- Prepare for job applications and interviews
- Make informed education and career decisions

Visit our [webpage for International Students](#) to access more resources, including our online modules.



Scan to go to the website



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*For any questions regarding immigration regulations, including working with a study permit, please consult [International Student Advisors at QUIC](https://quic.queensu.ca) (quic.queensu.ca).*