

Media Article



Vocational Guidance Services

HOW NOT TO GET A JOB

It is a sad fact of life that the person that gets hired is not necessarily the best person for the job but the one who knows how best to job hunt. Tragically too many candidates rely on these unproven approaches.

Send and sit

In this approach of how not to get a job, your first step is to make about 200 photocopies of your CV and certificates. The second step is to go through the telephone directory and get the addresses of all the companies you have ever heard of and then send them all those CVs and hastily written cover letters addressed dear sir/madam. Then pronto! you will get a job – right? wrong! I'm afraid you can't just sit and wait to be called. The reason this approach does not work? It shows no initiative, imagination or personal contact. Unsolicited random phone calls to companies don't work for the same reasons. The results of all this wasted money spent on photocopying and posting is normally just increased desperation. Fact: US research shows that only 1 resume out of 1,470 sent at random will result in a job.

Pay and wait

In this scenario you go and pay a small fee to an agency and transfer the responsibility of you getting a job to them. This approach should worry you in that you should ask what I'm I really paying for? Do the crew ships really exist? And of course you should wonder about the fact that you are placing your destiny into strangers' hands. Furthermore, if they are a well known agency (which they should be if you are having pay for the privilege of being on their files), they will have thousands of other candidates on their books, so you being chosen for a job is as likely as finding a needle in a haystack. Fact: over a hundred job seekers who rely on this method only five to twentyeight of them will eventually get recruited.

Hoping for a sign

There you sit hoping every day that the Nation will feature an advert for a vacancy that sounds like it was made for you. When it finally does appear, you respond with said copy of your CV. Unfortunately for you Nation has a wide readership so you wont be able to hide the advert from thousands of other candidates.

Now, don't get me wrong I am not saying don't try your luck with the agents and adverts but you must not in any way rely on this winning the lottery approach alone because if you do, you will most likely have only a sad collection of rejection letters to show for all your misplaced effort. This will result in depression which is the worst state for you to be job seeking in as employers smell desperation a mile away and you may end up unnecessarily lowering your career expectations. You must not let this happen, the key to success in job hunting is the self believe to keep searching for that perfect job.

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