## Overseas employment



Question: As an Australian Citizen, how do I gain permanent graphic design employment in the United Kingdom? The study and research of the process in which to follow in order to gain graphic design employment in the United Kingdom is of significance to me because I wish to do so in the future. I expect the outcome to this research proposal will provide me with a documented, step by step procedure that can be followed to assist in the process of securing a job in the UK. There are a number of factors that need to be considered when applying for work in any foreign country, such as, Will I need a work permit or visa? How will I search for an appropriate job? How will I contact prospective employers? Due to geographical location, the majority of my research into this process will be done via the internet. The Work Permit Firstly, I will need to consider my work permit or visa situation. Am I eligible to work in the United Kingdom? This information should be learnt from reliable sources, for example an official government website. I will need to source a computer with internet access and using a search engine, for example 'www.

google. com', would type in a phrase similar to 'united kingdom working visa'. This search returns over 4 million sites, governmental and non-governmental, however the first on the list is suitable as it is the United Kingdom Official Visa Home Page 'http://www. ukvisas. gov. uk/en/'.

From this particular website, visa options and regulations can be viewed.

There are various working visas available for different situations, for example a Working Holiday visa. After researching the visa options applicable to an Australian citizen, it is learnt that to be eligible to work on a permanent basis in the UK, it is in fact the responsibility of my prospective employer to apply

for my working visa. Therefore, a job must be found first, in order to have the right to enter the United Kingdom with the intention to work. The Job Search There are two ways in which to apply directly for work, regardless of discipline or industry.

You can A) Search for jobs that are on offer, or B) Apply speculatively to desirable companies. Option A – Searching for jobs that are on offer At your computer you need to access a job database applicable to the United Kingdom. This can be done through a search engine such as 'www.google.

com', as mentioned above. In here I will search for 'United Kingdom job search' or the similar. This particular search has produced millions of websites, it is the responsibility of the job seeker to examine these sites and find appropriate jobs that are on offer at that moment in time. For the purpose of this research proposal, let us assume I have found a specific job that I have an interest in. The next step that should be taken is to research the design firm or consultancy in question, in order to gain a better understanding of who they are.

This should be accomplished by visiting the company's website (if applicable), and equipping myself with knowledge on the nature of their work and the quality and standards they expect. Provided with this knowledge I, the applicant, am expected to modify and accommodate my CV or resume and design portfolio appropriately to the company's standards, and in relation to the specific job offer. With this completed it is now time to apply for the job. This will be achieved through the appropriate channels, guided to me in the job advertisement.

It is advisable to apply for numerous jobs that are of interest to me, in order to build on my chances of employment. I should be notified, regardless of the outcome, via email or post of the success of my applications. In the event that the company has an interest in my application, an interview can be accomplished via telephone or internet. This can be arranged via email or telephone correspondence. Option B – Applying speculatively to companies of interest In the instance that there are no appropriate jobs available at the time, or if I know of a particular design company I would like to work for, there is an option to inquire directly to the company and show my expression of interest. Before doing so however, it is still advisable that I follow part of the process in option A, being the investigation and research of the intended company.

Once again, with the knowledge and understanding of the standards required to be involved in this company, a revised version of my CV/resume and design portfolio should be completed to suit. With this completed, it is my responsibility to send my CV/resume and portfolio via email (or post) to the design company. It is advised to make a telephone call, in order to follow up and confirm the recipience of my details, and to show a sense of enthusiasm and interest in their company. It is encouraged that I follow this process many times over with different companies to enhance my chances of employment.

The Interview For the purpose of this research proposal let us assume I have had feedback from a design company, and they wish to conduct an interview with myself. It is advised that I contact the company via email or telephone to organise a time for this interview to occur, and in what capacity. It may be

their desire to manage the interview via a video call which can be arranged over the internet. Or it may be a matter of organising a time that is suitable to talk on the phone.

In this interview it is important that I make my intensions to work in the United Kingdom serious, as it is ultimately the company's responsibility to apply for my working permit. The Visa Application In the event that I am offered a position within a graphic design company and I accept that position, it is the company's responsibility to visit the website mentioned at the beginning of this proposal 'http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/'. There they will find the appropriate documentation and should send me the filled in application form atleast 8 weeks prior to my start date.