

# Employment options for new graduates

Written by Brooke Skubnik, 13 April 2021.

You've finished university, where do you go from here? I'm sure at the beginning of your degree you were completing it with a certain job title you hope to gain straight after finishing. But the workforce is an incredibly competitive place, and it is more than likely you won't be the only person graduating wanting that same job title. What happens if you don't get your dream position, where do you go from here?

[Carr](#) (2021) really lays it bare to graduates as he explains the Australian Association of Graduate Employers 2019 survey shows that across all industries included in the survey the average number of applications per graduate positions was 33.

This means on average (depending on your industry this varies) you will be competing with 33 other graduates for one singular entry level position.

Well luckily there is many other options for you after you graduate you just have to investigate a little and you can find out how to get where you want to be.

Firstly, your desired position may not be achievable with little to no experience, so you may need to widen your search. Your dream career is possible; however, you may have to work in a less so dreamy position in the industry and build your way up. Start changing up the wording in your search to broaden it, for example if you want to be an event manager, try changing your search to 'event' and see what other positions are out there for you. Once you are in the industry it is much easier to climb up to the position you really want.

If broadening your search and entering the industry in a different position title isn't a choice for you, you may need to consider broadening your job search in a different way, such as location. Obviously, you may not really want to move too far away when beginning to search for a job but searching for positions in towns/city's/countries where there is less competition can really help to boost your career. It is worth considering, especially if you are at a stage in your life where it is relatively easy for you to pick up your life and move, because a lot of your competition may not be in an easy stage of life to chase a job.

Volunteering is also an option to help make you more employable. [Seek volunteer](#) (2020) explains volunteering has many benefits that can really give you an edge against other graduates. You can volunteer in jobs that are in your desired industry or have transferrable skills. Volunteering shows you have both initiative and that you care about society. A business usually wants employees who are willing to be selfless for their business and volunteering shows you possess selflessness. Not to mention volunteer positions can teach and highlight great skills such as time management, organisation, people skills, communication skills and other many valuable skills. If you are hoping to gain employment in a country that is not your own volunteering in it can help you to learn the culture and language.

Furthermore, volunteering can help you build your network, and so can other industry or business events. In a competitive employment environment who you know is becoming nearly as important as what you know. Building your network is particularly important so whilst industry events may cost time and money, they are a great investment into your future.

Lastly even though you have spent the last few years studying for your ideal position sometimes it is worth looking at the required skills and abilities you need for your position and looking into short courses or higher degrees to further fulfill these requirements. These can be especially valuable for business positions where certain programs may be required to be used. For example, it might be worth taking a course in a program such as Microsoft Excel if all the positions you are applying for state that they require experts in the program who have knowledge and are able to use all the formulas.

These tips are just a few simple things you can do after you graduate to ensure your degree doesn't go to waste. Whilst it may be difficult in the beginning to gain your ideal career position there is always a path to get there. It is important that you are putting your best foot forward in your job applications with your resume, cover letter and interviews.

If you've been searching for a graduate position for a few months and are unsuccessful, try some of these tips to boost your career, some of them might be tough but they will help you get there in the end.

### **Reference List**

Carr J (2021) '[What are the odds of getting a graduate job](#)', *Grad Australia*, accessed 13 April 2021.

Seek Volunteer (11 June 2020) '[How volunteering can help give graduates an edge](#)', *Grad Connection*, accessed 13 April 2021.