

What to Do If You Have Missed Out on Getting a Place in a Nursing Graduate Program?

Not all nursing graduates will be able to receive a placement offer immediately upon receiving their nursing diploma or similar qualification. Most nursing students focus on applying for placements at major businesses or hospitals. While this is a good idea, you should not ignore other opportunities such as a graduate program in a rural area, or an internship opportunity at a small local clinic. If you feel you have missed out on a nursing graduate program or a particular program, then these tips are for you:

1. Do not panic or lose your temper if you feel you have missed any opportunities

Being rejected for jobs or graduate programs is just an inevitable part of life. Nobody becomes successful without at least a few mistakes or failures in their life. The most important thing is for this to not stop you from actively pursuing any similar opportunities that may become available to you as a nursing graduate.

2. Take action and contact potential employers

Even if you feel you have missed out on any advertised graduate programs, you should still actively contact, call, and send expressions of interest or applications to any potential employers. You should frequently check recruitment sites to see whether any new opportunities appear. Even if there are no current opportunities that interest you, it is a good idea to contact any local medical business or hospital, as they can keep you updated if there are any available opportunities for you in the future.

3. Contact any businesses you have previously worked with during your nursing study

It is a good idea to contact any business you have had work experience, a placement, or an internship with during your nursing course. This is more likely to lead to further opportunities with this business, rather than just contacting random businesses you have never worked with before. Having previous experience with a medical business or hospital means they likely have a record of your work performance, and this could increase your chances of receiving a potential job offer as a new nursing graduate.

4. Seek opportunities in rural areas

You have a greater chance of receiving a graduate program placement in a rural area than compared to a more populated area like the Melbourne CBD. Work experience in a rural area will be just as valuable as experience in a major city. Also, hospitals or medical facilities in rural areas are more often in demand of nurses because many graduates are not willing to

relocate or move cities just for a work opportunity. If you are willing to move though, then this could give you a competitive advantage over others and likely give you an opportunity fairly quickly.

5. Do not hesitate to apply for Nursing professional positions requiring experience

Do not worry when you see job vacancies that ask for a nurse with at least a few years of experience. You have nothing to lose by applying anyway. Sometimes hospitals or clinics will make an exception for you if they are desperate for more nurses. If you can prove that you are competent and reliable in your application and interview, then it is quite possible that you will eventually receive an offer from one of these hospitals or clinics.

6. Expand your interests and apply for jobs in different nursing specialisations

If you are struggling to find any graduate program opportunities, you may consider applying for a position in an Aged Care facility, or a position of assisting people with disabilities in a hospital or their own home. There are many opportunities to build and expand your expertise that will open up more paths for you in the future. Try to not limit yourself to one area of nursing as this could slow you down in starting and building your career as a nurse.

7. Do not give up

Do not let yourself feel too disappointed or upset if you miss out on a graduate program. You have to accept it and move on to searching for the next opportunity. There will always be more opportunities, you just have to keep trying and your hard work will pay off eventually.

If you have any questions about gaining work experience as a nursing graduate, please contact us through email at exceptionalstudyaustralia@gmail.com, call us on 0447840939 or message us through social media.