

Where to find graduate programs in Australia

Being accepted into a graduate program in Australia can be incredibly challenging but securing one can significantly improve your chances of also securing long-term employment after the program ends. Graduate programs are easiest to find and apply to if you are in your penultimate (second last year) or final year of your degree. Graduate programs for most companies including large corporations such as PwC or Deloitte, usually open applications in late January to mid-February. It is best to start applying early as this can increase your chances of being noticed by the employer.

1. Gradconnection, GradAustralia, SEEK, and LinkedIn

There are a number of websites that can be found on Google where you can apply to many different graduate programs. These four, GradConnection, GradAustralia, SEEK, and LinkedIn are likely your best options. These sites are most often used by employers and applicants, as they are constantly updated with new opportunities and also allow you to track the progress of your applications by creating an account. You should regularly check these websites throughout the year and make sure you do not miss the application deadlines for any companies you would like to work for. A website such as GradConnection also allows you to follow a company's page or even ask them a question directly. This way you can be sure to stay updated when new opportunities are posted.

2. Contact your university for help

Universities and all study institutions typically put a lot of money into the faculties or departments responsible for finding students relevant work experience. This is a great option for all students, even if you are finding plenty of opportunities through websites such as

GradConnection, many universities have special partnerships with certain organisations which could make it easier for you to find a graduate program or some kind of graduate work experience. Even if your university cannot simply give you an opportunity for asking, they could at least point you in the right direction for resources such as job boards only available to students from your university.

3. Ask your friends and family

It is always worth asking friends and family whether they have any connections who could offer you a graduate program or graduate work. For example, if a friend's dad owns a marketing firm, that is a possible opportunity. Your chances of succeeding in this regard are mostly based on luck, so do not feel disappointed if you do not know anyone could help.

4. Apply early

Applying early is critical if you want to increase your chances of successfully being accepted into a graduate program. Some graduate program applications are only available for a couple weeks, but even if the application deadline is a month away, companies generally start progressing applications or even interviewing applicants before the deadlines close.

5. Apply to as many programs as possible

In addition to applying early, applying to as many programs as you feel is possible will dramatically increase your chances of being offered a graduate program. If you only apply to your one dream company then your chances are slim. Instead, if you applied to not one but ten, twenty, or even thirty graduate programs, you would be much more likely to progress to the next stage or be offered an

interview from at least one of those applications. One important thing to note though is to try not getting burnt-out or exhausted by applying to too many. Try not to apply to ten graduate programs in a day for example. Two or even just one application a day is a reasonable number.

6. Don't just apply to big companies, focus on smaller companies too

While it is a great dream to apply and be accepted into a graduate program for a large international company, most other graduates share this dream too. This means your chances of securing one of these popular positions is much lower than if you also apply to smaller local companies offering programs too. Smaller companies might also have more straightforward and simple application processes, with fewer interviews or fewer online tests.

7. Apply for programs in other Australian cities too

Do not just restrict yourself to applying to graduate programs being advertised in Melbourne. There are plenty of opportunities in other cities too and due to the current work climate caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that some companies would be happy for you to work from home (WFH) where you are already living. Many students applying for graduate programs may forget this possibility, meaning you have a greater chance of being accepted into a graduate program if you apply for positions across Australia.