



Julie's Tips on How to Discover your Employability Skills

When it comes to job search, many immigrant professionals look for positions that perfectly match the last job they had in their home countries before they immigrated to Canada. While this strategy, which is focused on technical skills may work for some candidates, it doesn't for everybody. In the Canadian labour market, soft skills are as important as technical skills.

However, soft skills may be a new concept for internationally educated professionals, and an important one to learn. "Soft skills are also called employability or transferable skills," explains

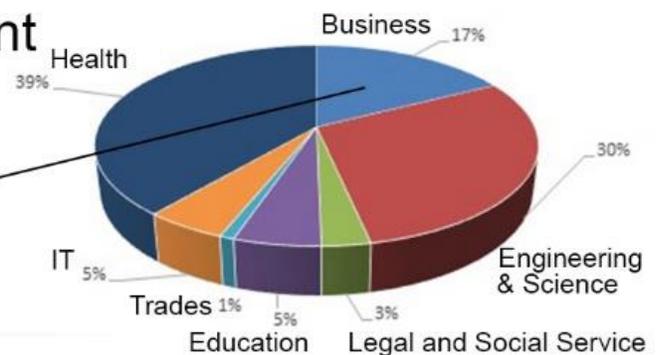
Julie Zurbrigg, career coach at Directions for Immigrants. She asks her clients to complete a self-assessment on the skills they feel competent using, for example, communication, problem solving, planning, and teamwork.

"I ask them to write down specific examples where they used those skills and apply the STAR technique - Situation, Task, Action, Result. Then the client and I look at job postings together with a broader perspective, not just focused on technical skills," says Julie. "It helps us update their resume and write a cover letter targeted for a wider scope of positions."

If you are an internationally educated professional and would like to identify your own employability skills, call us to book an appointment to determine your eligibility for our services 403-770-5155.

Occupations A to Z

Supply Chain Management Professional



We help internationally educated professionals [in any occupation in any industry](#). For this edition of the newsletter we are highlighting the occupation of [Supply Chain Management Professional](#) or Purchasing Agent. Supply chain management professionals buy goods, materials, supplies and services as required by their organization.

The Supply Chain Management Association of Alberta has over 1,700 members in the province, with over half of their members holding the professional designation Supply Chain Management Professional. Members work in all the major sectors of the Alberta Economy: energy; manufacturing; business and commercial services; transportation and communications; public administration; and wholesale and retail trade.

Visit the [Directions for Immigrants website](#) to learn about the registration process for internationally educated supply chain management professionals.



Career Coaching Tip

Look beyond the job title

Job titles are not always the same from country to country or even company to company. Therefore, it is important that job searchers see themselves as a set of skills rather than a job title. You can do this by first taking stock of your full skill set and then look for positions that utilize that skill set. This will also enable you to determine alternative jobs that you may have not considered before. For example, you may have had the job title of project engineer, but your skill set could also be suitable for project coordinator, estimator, assistant project manager or even technical sales representative.

Joan Matsusaki, career coach at Directions for Immigrants

Success Story

Congratulations to Simon



Congratulations to Simon! He is an internationally educated marketing and communications professional from the Philippines who immigrated in 2017 and landed a job as a Sales Advisor for a telecommunications company in Calgary. "Darlene was a huge help in my job hunt. I probably wouldn't have found this job if it wasn't for her guidance!" says Simon. .

Directions for Immigrants

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The Province of Alberta is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to provide employment support programs and services.