

Tips to Prepare for Job-hunting in Japan

Japanese university students who were successful in job-hunting suggested the following tips that can help students prepare for job-hunting and distinguish themselves from other job candidates.

A) Improve English proficiency

- Study abroad
- Do a homestay
- Study at a language school
- Study with a private tutor
- Join ESS Club
- Take lots of English classes at university, including Business English
- Practice using English with native English speakers
- Communicate with a language partner (e.g. text, skype, in person)
- Read easy English books
- Read English news articles
- Watch English films, videos or TV shows
- Increase TOEIC score

B) Acquire other knowledge / skills

- Take courses in public speaking, inter-cultural communication
- Acquire business skills (e.g. bookkeeping license)
- Acquire computer skills (e.g. certification in software applications)
- Learn another foreign language (e.g. Chinese)
- Join Toastmaster's to gain experience in public speaking (<http://www.toastmasters.org>)
- Do research related to future career for graduation thesis
- Complete graduation thesis during 3rd year
- Maintain a good grade point average (GPA)
- Attend graduate school, complete MBA (Master of Business Administration) Degree
- Request reference letters from teachers, employer
- Have a clear career goal when job-hunting

C) Gain work experience

- Do volunteer activity related to future career
- Do part-time job related to future career
- Do internship related to future career
- Join AIESEC, apply to do an internship abroad (<http://aiesec.org>)
- Obtain working holiday visa to work abroad (<http://www.mofa.go.jp>)
- Do networking, make contacts (e.g. OB/OG)
- Talk with 4th year students about their job-hunting experiences
- Contact a mentor for advice