

# Internship

*Many students want to work in Vancouver, but they will not all find jobs. What can you do to make your application stand out to an employer?*

by Dave Henderson

## Volunteer Experience

Vancouver has many opportunities for volunteer work. You'll get experience in a Canadian job situation, help out a local group, and have some fun while doing it! Practice your English and meet people from a variety of places.

## Like a Pro

Make your jobsearch your job. Spend time looking and applying for work each day to get results quickly.



## Show the Employer What You Can Do

Let's face it - your experience or education from home are not very persuasive here. Employers want to know that you can work to their standards. Show them that you can by including Canadian experience.

## Advertise Your Abilities



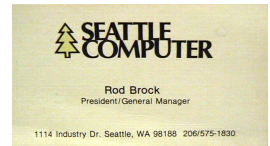
Market yourself starting with your first local contact. Accomplishments in Canada get attention.

## Stand Out

You need to be different from the other applicants. By showing how you match the requirements of the job, the recruiter will remember you. Use simple language, and describe both your accomplishments and their connections to the job you want.

## Use Business Cards

Make friends in your field. They can often be sources of jobs or opportunities that have not yet been advertised.



## Get Noticed!

*If you have Canadian education on your resumé, it shows an employer your interest in our business culture. It also makes them think that you are more serious than other candidates and will value your work more.*

There are many Canadian certifications that are both easy to get and related to your internship. The skills they teach will help you succeed.

### Food Service Specialties

The first choice for people working in or with kitchens is named Food Safe. This teaches cleanliness, handling, and storage procedures, and is required by most major restaurants and hotels. There are in-person and online courses, and should cost about \$110. [www.foodsafe.ca](http://www.foodsafe.ca) is their website, which includes training and testing options.

**Don't be boring. Show that you have the skills to succeed by completing a Canadian workplace certification.**

For servers in bars, pubs, and restaurants, there is a program called Serving It Right. The focus is on safe and consistent service of alcoholic drinks. This is required by most restaurants, casinos, and clubs. You can study and write the test online, and the cost is \$40. [www.servingitright.com](http://www.servingitright.com) has the details and the test, as well as practice information.

### Housekeeping, Hospitals, or Factories

These jobs can deal with many chemicals. The WHMIS (say wi-mis) program identifies safety standards that help keep workers, customers, and handlers safe. With this certification, you show that you are responsible and care about the end result. The government of Canada has information here: [WHMIS website](http://www.whmis.ca). Courses are offered locally through third-party providers.

### Office and Clerical Employment

In these workplaces, computers and basic operating skills are commonplace. With a Microsoft Office Specialist certificate, you clearly show that your skills and experience are better than most. Microsoft's official info [site is here](http://www.microsoft.com). Courses and tests are available at various locations, including self-study, in Vancouver.

### Customer Service, Tourism, and Hospitality

Obtaining the WorldHost certificate demonstrates to an employer that you are knowledgeable about Canadian standards of service and business culture. [www.worldhosttraining.com](http://www.worldhosttraining.com) has information about courses, the test, and the certificate.