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## NZ Job Hunting

Ben Shaw, professional resume writer based in Wellington, reassures newcomers that the way to go about job hunting in New Zealand is “very similar to the UK”.

However, it is pretty competitive he says and whilst New Zealand CVs don’t differ greatly to British ones, it is very important to have one that looks professional.

In addition Shaw advises his clients to try and tailor their CV to particular positions they are applying for, rather than just taking a one size fits all approach. “Your CV is a strategic marketing document for you...it is designed to get you in the door”.

Shaw has written resumes for clients from all around the world from South Africa to the US as well as for every profession from I.T. professionals to florists and tradesmen.

But he also has experience in recruitment and is able to help clients with advice on more than just their resumes.

He encourages clients to read job ads very carefully. “A lot of job ads don’t give a lot away, they’re quite general” he says. So you need to look at them carefully and try to really pinpoint the skills and expertise that the employer is looking for.

When it comes to the interview stage Shaw stresses the importance of doing your homework.

“Prepare properly for interviews. So, you should research the employer, look at the job description carefully and try to think of examples of how you have demonstrated the skills they’re looking for”.

Shaw himself has first-hand experience of both the UK and NZ job markets. Originally from Shropshire and he moved to New Zealand in 2007 encouraged by his brother’s travels here.

He worked in industrial recruitment in the UK and when he came to New Zealand he went straight to the capital, Wellington, and really hasn’t looked back he says. He initially spent some time working in general recruitment in Wellington before becoming a writer for Successful Resumes ([www.successfulresumes.co.nz](http://www.successfulresumes.co.nz)).

Since arriving in New Zealand Shaw has only made one trip back to the UK. And now, married with a small child, he is very happy to call New Zealand home. His brother has also settled here in Queenstown and his parents are frequent visitors.

For those considering the move here, Shaw has one last bit of general advice –

“If you prepare properly and do your research, you’ll have a great time in New Zealand”.



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