

Full Time Job Search Worth the Effort

An employee's story – Shaun Gan, Paraplanner, ASB Bank Limited

Shaun Gan and his wife migrated to New Zealand in 2012 leaving their home and an established career in the financial sector in Malaysia. Shaun's decision to move was made easier given he had already lived in New Zealand as a student at Lincoln University in Christchurch 25 years earlier.

Knowing he was job searching in a competitive environment, Shaun was dedicated and disciplined with his job search, including making sure he was linked into support networks available to him as a new migrant.

"Once I had arrived I attended Auckland Regional Migrant Services job search workshop and I found out about the New Kiwis service. From there I enrolled in the New Kiwis Career Success course that is run by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce.

I found the course to be extremely helpful. It helps to put into perspective the realities of the job market in Auckland. The course helped me to understand how to present my past work experience in my CV in a way that matches what local employers are looking for. It also covered interview practise and coaching sessions which helped me to learn about the mind-set of local kiwi employers as well as offered some insights into what it is like in a Kiwi workplace."

As a new migrant looking for a management or senior role within the finance sector, Shaun was well aware of the importance of networking and building his contacts within this new business environment.

After an initial period working with a financial services firm in Auckland, Shaun is now employed as a Paraplanner with the ASB Bank. This role offers an opportunity to establish his career in an financial institution and he feels extremely positive about his future opportunities.

"I am now on the right path to succeed in my chosen career, in my new home country," he says.

"Looking for a job is a full time job, and it's not easy! I had to go through more than a few job rejections at the start but I learnt from each experience."

Thanks to New Kiwis service Shaun says he was much more confident and focused in his job hunting strategy.

"I remembered to always be cheerful and humble. I found it helped if I imagined how difficult a kiwi would find it trying to get a job in Malaysia. Thinking about things from that perspective helped me to stay motivated and positive in my search. The New Kiwis service helped me keep my spirits up during my job search."

One of the tips I learnt from the New Kiwis coaching session was the importance of thanking an employer for their time spent meeting me in an interview and to follow up with them after that. After all if you give the recruiter a good impression, even if you don't get that particular role, they may still refer you for another job opportunity down the track."

Interview with Shaun Gan conducted by Rebecca Hendl-Smith, Auckland Chamber of Commerce in March 2015



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The New Kiwis website and service is a nationwide employment initiative designed to connect new and returning Kiwis with employers via the Chamber of Commerce brand and networks. The website can be used autonomously or additional support and services for both job seekers and employers can be accessed by calling **0800 709 907** or email newkiwis@chamber.co.nz.

New Kiwis initiative is a partnership between Immigration New Zealand and the Auckland Chamber of Commerce.