

Help, I have no Canadian experience!

What is Canadian experience? Newcomers are under the impression that employers will only hire people who have worked in Canada. It might be the case for some employers but is not the case for all of them. The majority of Canadian employers are looking for exceptional employees. If potential candidates can do the job put in front of them, employers don't care whether their training was in Canada or elsewhere. They only care that new hires can do the job.

You might not have worked yet in Canada, but you have worked internationally. That's a positive. You might speak another language. Again, that is a positive. Canada is multi-lingual. People who speak, read and write other languages are an asset to employers who need to reach out to other communities. If you can do that, employers will want you. Employers only want to know that you can do the job, you can converse with their customers and clients, sell their products, and help them solve their problems. So, it doesn't matter if you have done that in Canada or Germany or India. Microsoft in Nepal is the same as Microsoft in Canada.

Offer value and you will be sought after. Read the news, what's happening in your immediate world; so many problems need solving, what might you do to help solve them? Look for connections and trends not perceived barriers and bring work related value wherever you go.

Ask yourself, can you do the job and sell the employer on your experience, techniques and knowledge. Don't tell them what you don't have, tell and show them what you do have. Display a positive attitude and enthusiasm and interest to make your contributions more enticing than where you got your experience. Show them that you have embraced Canadian life – you speak the language, are taking courses, workshops, listening to Canadian television and radio, reading Canadian newspapers and learning the Canadian culture.

If you need extra help with how to answer questions on how to sell yourself if you are new and haven't worked in Canada, speak with a career specialist at any one of the Employment Ontario funded employment service centres near you. It's free!