Summer Job Search Tips

The summer is a great time to build skills, gain experience and expand your professional network, all while making some money! Your goal may be to earn money by working in your area of interest. However, it’s important to search for practical opportunities that will help you develop career-ready skills. These experiences and skills will help you in future positions as well.

1. Identify your goals

Do you want to…
- Develop career-ready skills and gain experience?
- Earn money?
- Develop your interests or explore something new?

2. Create a plan

- Start early! Some positions are posted as early as the fall, even though the typical recruiting period for summer positions is January–March.
- Think creatively about the different ways you can achieve your summer goals.
- For example, consider LinkedIn Learning to develop new skills. Or, think about having informational interviews to help you explore your career field. If your main goal is to make money, then think broadly about the available opportunities.
- Incorporate your job search into your daily or weekly routine. Create a job search schedule.

3. Use effective techniques

- Connect with us for a resume critique to ensure you can showcase your skills and experience in a way that appeals to your audience. Book a critique on OSCARplus (under Student Success Centre > Appointments! > Careers) or attend our virtual career drop-ins.
- Attend webinars or online sessions to learn strategies and have your questions answered. Our webinar topics include resumes, LinkedIn, networking, interviews and job searching. Register on OSCARplus (under Student Success Centre > Events).
- Attend job fairs. Learn about career events on our website and the events calendar on OSCARplus (under Student Success Centre > Events).
- Chat with people. You never know who can lead you to your next opportunity. Let your friends, family, professors, TAs, peers, and so on, know the type of opportunity you’re seeking. They may be able to help with ideas and referrals.

4. Use many methods

- Check job posting sites, but don’t stop there!
- Research company websites for postings, but do your research and tailor your application before you apply.
- Use social media platforms to connect with organizations, people and opportunities.
- LinkedIn can be a powerful professional tool — search “McMaster University” and click on alumni profiles to find out where they work and what they do.
Check the Alumni and Partners Advisor Network to connect with experienced professionals in your field of interest.

**Additional tips**
- Conduct your job search as broadly as possible. Don’t just apply to your ideal job and hope that you get it. Have a back-up plan.
- Apply, apply, apply! Sometimes, it can take up to 50 applications to secure one interview!
- Remember, you can build skills, experience and professional networks in any job; it’s what you make of your experience, not what your experience makes of you.

**Where to search: On campus**

**McMaster Work Program**
This program provides on-campus opportunities for actively registered students who demonstrate financial need.
- Part-time jobs are posted in early August and sporadically throughout the school year; summer jobs are posted in early March. Learn more about the McMaster Work Program on the Registrar website.

**McMaster Students Union (MSU)**
- Paid and volunteer positions are posted on the MSU website.

**McMaster Athletics and Recreation**
- Typical opportunities include service desk, business office, the Pulse and Intramurals. Visit the McMaster Athletics and Recreation website for more information.

**Where to search: Community**

**Job posting sites**
- Check OSCARplus job postings regularly — organizations post local, national and international opportunities daily. Go to OSCARplus > Student Success Centre > Employment > Job Postings.
  - Indeed
  - Government of Canada Job Bank
  - Charity Village
  - TalentEgg
  - Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
  - Ontario Public Service Summer Employment Opportunities (SEO)

**Virtual and remote work**
- FlexJobs
- Remote.co
- We Work Remotely
• You can also filter positions by “remote” on typical job sites like Indeed.

**Self-employment and freelance work**

- Summer Company: This Ontario Government program provides business training, mentorship and financial rewards for eligible students. Find out if you’re eligible and learn more about the Summer Company program on the Ontario Government website.
- Hamilton Business Enterprise Centre: This organization provides information, tools and resources to help young entrepreneurs grow their business.
- Fiverr

**Hamilton community**

- Check stores in Westdale, Dundurn Plaza, University Plaza, Jackson Square, Ancaster Meadowlands and Limeridge Mall.
- Be sure to check company websites for job postings (especially department stores or chains).
- Note: If you’re not currently in Hamilton, consider similar options in your area.