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This Guide

Working abroad sounds to many people as an adventure.

However, without thorough preparation, starting with a successful application, it is bound to fail. Therefore, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in over 40 countries. Are you interested in working in New Zealand, France or Japan? Has your partner accepted a job in Hungary, Spain, or the United Arab Emirates?

Are you looking for an internship possibility in the UK, Singapore or the United States? The Looking for work in... guides from ELM will help you with accurate information and practical tips on working cultures and differences in job hunting in over 40 countries.

As an extra addition to the series – following many requests – ELM introduced a new guide: Looking for work in International Organisations which explains how to successfully look for work in for instance the institutes of the European Commission, UN institutions and NGO's.

This guide contains information on Australia. It tells you how to apply for a job in Australia and the cultural differences that you will come across when looking for a job in Australia. Do not underestimate those national differences. What is common in one country might be very unusual in another country. To find a job abroad you need to be aware that national differences manifest themselves not only in different languages, but also

in different recruitment practices. Thus, looking for work in another country involves more than writing your CV/resume in another language.

No matter the country in which you are looking for work, the key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for a job interview. Accordingly, your CV should be regarded as a marketing tool, adapted to the market in which you intend to use it. The information in this guide, together with the sample CV, will help you to adapt your application for the Australian job market. However, make sure your application remains a reflection of your personality. Working abroad is one thing, but having a job that does not suit you will definitely cause homesickness!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nannette Ripmeester', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nannette Ripmeester, MA
Managing Director
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Country Profile

Country

Australia is an island of continental scale with an area of 7,682,300 square kilometres (4,773,560 square miles) - the largest English-speaking country in the Southern Hemisphere and the 6th largest country in the world (roughly the same size as the 48 mainland states of the US).

It is the home country of nearly 20.3 million people, many of them of immigrant background. A true melting pot as Australia harbours migrants from approx. 160 different countries. Australia is a federal state. The capital of Australia is Canberra (324,786 inhabitants, in 2007). Other main cities are Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin and Perth. Besides being the least densely populated country on earth – only 2 people per square kilometre – its cities are among the most urbanised. Australia is a flat country with ancient plateau, some of which are 330 metres above sea level. In the west and south the Indian Ocean forms the natural border, in the

east the Coral and Tasman Seas, and in the north there is Timor and the Arafura Seas.

Climate

The Australian climate ranges from moderate temperatures in the south to tropical in the north with extremely hot and dry weather conditions in the Central Desert inland. The Australian summer is from December to February. Highest rain falls between February and June.

Population

Australia has approximately 21.26 million (2009) inhabitants. The overall population consists of inhabitants from European descents, a small amount is Asian and less than 2 percent is of traditional Aboriginal origin.

Until World War II, Australians were predominantly of British and Irish descents, but that has changed dramatically. Large groups of immigrants from Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Lebanon and Turkey came to Australia after World War II, subsequently followed more recently by immigrants from Asia.

History

Australia's original inhabitants, the Aboriginals, have the longest cultural history in the world, with origins dating back to the last Ice

age. The first human beings in Australia must have travelled across the sea from Indonesia about 70,000 years ago. Archaeologists called them 'Robust' because of their heavy-boned physique. They were followed 20,000 years later by the more slender 'Gracile' people, the ancestors of Australian Aboriginals. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to come to Australia in the 16th century. The Dutch and the English followed swift.

The legendary captain James Cook sailed the entire length of the eastern coast in 1770, stopping at Botany Bay on the way. After rounding Cape York, he claimed the continent for the British and named it New South Wales. In 1779, Cook's assistant Joseph Banks suggested that Britain could solve overcrowding problems in its prisons by transporting convicts to New South Wales. In 1787, the first fleet - with 750 convicts - set sail for Botany Bay under the command of Captain Arthur Philip, who was to become the colony's first governor. For the new arrivals, New South Wales was a horrible place, many even died because of starvation.

Free settlers began to be attracted to Australia over the next decades. Agriculture was the first boom industry and the expansion of the sheep population led to increased demands on the land, which in turn spawned a contingent of pioneers who traversed the massive spaces of this vast land. The result of their exploits was the discovery of Australia's enormous mineral wealth. However, it was

the discovery of gold in the 1850's that changed the face of the colony. The huge inflow of migrants and several large finds boosted the economy and changed the colonial social structures. Aboriginals were ruthlessly pushed off their tribal lands as new settlers took up land for farming or mining. The Industrial Revolution in England required raw materials, and Australia's agricultural and mineral resources were expanded to meet this demand.

Australia became independent on 1 January 1901 (although many of the legal and cultural ties with England still remain). Australian troops fought for instance alongside the British in the South African Boer War, World War I and World War II. However, the protection Australia received from the USA after the Japanese invasion during World War II, marked the ending of Australia's loyalty towards England. Australia subsequently followed the USA into both the Korean and Vietnam wars in Asia.

Post World War II immigration brought a flood of European immigrants, many of them non-British. The immigrants have since made an enormous contribution to the country, enlivening its culture and broadening its vision. In the 1980's, Australia accepted large numbers of Asian refugees, especially from Vietnam. Socially and economically, Australia is still trying to find its place alongside great powers in Asia. Despite new laws concerning the rights of the Aboriginals, many of them continue to live in bad conditions.

Australia is the world's largest producer of iron ore, black coal, bauxite and alumina, diamonds and zircon. And its reserves are sufficient to support large volumes of production well into the future. Currently, the main industries are forestry, agriculture, fishing and tourism.

Good news remained the order of the day for the Australian economy in 1994; low inflation was recorded for month after month. The major economic problem for Australia remained unemployment. Accordingly, the country increased its spending on labour-intensive projects by 15% in an attempt to cut unemployment rates.

For the first time in more than a decade, Australian voters chose a conservative administration to run the nation. At the general election on March 2, 1996, the Australian Labour Party (ALP), which had held office continuously since 1983, was swept away.

On November 6, 1999, 55% of Australians voted against the country becoming a republic with a president "appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament." An eight-week-long election-style media campaign failed to persuade Australians to cut the link with the British monarchy.

In 2000 Australia hosted the 2000 Olympic Games. Australia