



CPA Ireland's Guide to Increasing Your Employability

This is the sixth in a series of articles by CPA Ireland aimed at providing you with a comprehensive guide to improving your job prospects, with advice on your CV, cover letters, networking skills and much more. Here, we discuss how to increase your employability during periods of unemployment.

If you have been out of work for even a month or so, it won't be long until you feel that returning to the world of work will be a difficult task. Even when you can't find jobs to apply for, there are still ways you can improve your employability while the country continues to weather the recessionary storm. These can range from improving your skills to your experience, but in a competitive jobs market, every advantage counts.

- **Consider an "add-on" qualification.**

If continued unemployment seems inevitable, returning to education is always a good idea. While the country is in recession, you can be busy up-skilling and raising your employability with another degree or a postgraduate course. Raising your computer skills to their highest level is essential and evening courses around the country can help you to master spreadsheets, excel, typing and everything else you need to know about computers.

- **Learn a Language**

Consider using your time to learn another language as it will give you an advantage over others in your field. Spanish is one of the most common languages throughout the world, especially the United States, while Chinese is being recommended by most business experts as the top language to learn with the rise of the Far East's economy.

- **Consider Temporary Employment.**

Many professionals prefer flexible employment like temporary contracts as they allow them to work for companies of all sizes and across most industries. Temporary employees are exposed to more leading-edge technologies than their full-time counterparts and they have frequent opportunities for skills enhancement and training on these technologies.

- **Take an Internship**

If you still cannot find a full-time position, why not consider an internship? These will ensure that while you are between jobs, you will still be gaining experience and expanding your network and skills base.

- **Broaden Your Interests**

These don't need to be specifically related to your particular industry, but simple things like taking up a new sport, hobby or pastime or even just picking up a book can put your extra time to good use. These will all improve your conversational skills and extend your interests beyond working and socialising.

- **Travel the World**

While this may not be a valid option for many money-wise, if you have the opportunity to travel always take it. Experiencing other countries and cultures improves your life

experience and broadens your interests. It may also give you the chance to re-evaluate your career goals and aims for the future.

CPA Ireland is one of the main Irish accountancy bodies, with more than 5,000 members and students in the island of Ireland. The CPA title is the most commonly used designation internationally for professional accountants and the Institute's qualification enjoys worldwide recognition. Its current membership operates in public practice, industry, financial services and the public sector and CPAs work in over 32 countries around the world.

For further information, please contact:

Kay Kinsella
Business Development Department
Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland (CPA)
17 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2
Tel: +3535 (0) 1 425 1057
Fax: +353 (0) 1 425 1001
[Visit studycpa.ie](http://studycpa.ie)