

# I've Got Bills To Pay

## A Guide to Finding a Job After Education

in this [blog post](#) James Carver, Methodist Youth President, shares his personal perspective on the job hunting process. (Please note that this is a personal reflection and does not represent professional advice provided on behalf of the Methodist Church.)

So, you've just made it through education. You have your degree and you are ready for the working world. But wait! You keep getting these letters back saying, "We are sorry but your application for Chief Methodist Expert at the Methodist School of Methodism has been declined" and you think "what is going wrong?"

Unfortunately, we are in an age where good jobs that offer a young person career progression are few and far between and it can be both physically and emotionally difficult to find something for you. With my year as Youth President coming to a close, I am currently in the market for work myself, and have honestly found it difficult to even get past the application stage. Out of approximately 10 applications I have received two interviews. However, this experience has taught me a few things about what to put, and what not to put, when applying for jobs. So, here are some thoughts on the application process along with tips on how to potentially succeed.

The first question is what exactly is a job? In essence, a job is a piece of work you have signed up to completing in exchange for pay. A job could be digital such as social media, public service such as the police, office work such as administration, transport, or even religious forms such as ministry. You can even be paid around £76 a time to be a "professional mourner" at a funeral. There are a thousand roles that could fit one of your passions but the true job is getting them. So, how do we do this?

Typically, to get a position, you need three items, a Curriculum Vitae (CV) containing your qualifications and experience, an application form, and an interview.

A CV is a document, typically two pages long, which tell recruiters who you are. It gives them an introduction to Alex (I'm assuming your name is Alex) the person. Who is Alex? What has Alex done? Did Alex take any breaks during their education? This is the sort of thing employers are looking for on a CV. Next, you will have an application form to complete. An application form tells the recruiters that Alex is interested in the role and this is how Alex's experience and transferable skills relate to what they are looking for.

Application forms are very long and can be confusing, remember to look back and review what you have written. If Alex is lucky, they might one day receive an email saying, "Thank you for an application, we are happy to offer you an interview." After many rejection emails, you now have a chance to get somewhere and it feels great. The interview stage is an employer's chance to get to know you better, to ask you further questions about your experience. However, it is also your chance to ask them questions about the organisation. If you can successfully make it all the way through these steps then you should receive an email or telephone call saying, "We would like to offer you the job as Head of Goo Research!"

You might be sitting, reading this blog, thinking where to start. Don't worry. There are some people out there who can help. At university, you can usually find careers advisors, who, while they cannot fill out the application form for you, can give you some valuable feedback on how to format your CV, how to develop your transferable skills and where the best places are to look for positions.

You can also find help from family and friends. These individuals may have been through the same process, possibly multiple times, but it is important to remember that recruitment practices may have changed since their time. Finally, you can find some fantastic guidance and support from the government through their careers website (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>) or the Job Centre who can be great at offering support to those seeking employment, or who live with a disability.

Did you know, there are also a range of job and volunteer positions available in the Methodist Church. You can find these [here](#).

Before finishing on this blog, I want to leave you with some useful tips. So, here are some Youth President tips for getting a job:

- 1: Understand yourself; often we have higher perceptions of our skills than are true. If you are looking for a job straight out of education which pays £60,000 a year, you might have a tough time.
- 2: Get a family member or friend to read through your application; this gives you another perspective on how your answers come across and they might spot something you have missed.
- 3: With questions about the job specification, provide examples of times when you have fulfilled that requirement. This was the biggest mistake I kept making. Although I said I had the experience, I never proved it by supplying evidence.
- 4: Keep applying for jobs; if you wait each time to hear about whether an application has been successful or not before applying for the next one then the process will take forever.
- 5: Be yourself in the interview; remember that as well as identifying if you are a good fit for the role, employers will want to see if you are a good fit for the team.