

Searching for Industrial Engineering Employment in Australia

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Institute is frequently contacted by overseas applicants seeking positions in Australia.

The Institute does not provide a job search service for its members, though it is hoped that student members will raise their particular needs on the members' forum when that area of the website is activated.

2.0 EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Candidates may know that employment in Australia originates in a number of different ways:

2.1 Advertisements in major daily newspapers.

The Financial Review and The Australian claim their audience to be Australia wide. Majority of ads in FR are on Friday, Austn. on Saturday, though there is a special IT job section on Wednesday.

In each Australian state there is a major daily paper, with the majority of jobs advertised on Saturday. In Brisbane it's the Courier-Mail, in Sydney the Sydney Morning Herald, in Melbourne it's the Age. There are papers for Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Darwin, though their job markets are smaller. Candidates could target a location and direct their enquiries accordingly.

2.2 Internet

There is significant job advertising on the net. The daily papers have web sites and most have job information. Consultants that advertise in the papers also have their own sites. Some jobs are only advertised on the net. The IIE website provides some links to jobfinding sites. If candidates do search the net and are successful, they could email any useful links to IIE so that the range of links useful for our members is increased.

2.3 Agencies and Consultants

Some employment agencies will jobsearch for Australian residents and are paid by the government to do this. Others are retained by potential employers to find staff. It is a common practice to send resumes to the consultants in a particular location and field of interest.

3.0 MAKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Often, jobsearchers send their resumes to the Human Resources Managers of enterprises in the target locations and target industries.

4.0 DIRECT JOB SEARCH

Sometimes employers ask around for potential applicants. It is not a common practice. Sometimes IIE members are asked if there are applicants available for a position a particular employer is hoping to fill.

The IIE job market in Australia is may be shrinking due to decreased economic activity; in particular in the manufacturing industries. Manufacturing and IT businesses are down sizing. Mining in general is still employing people.

Some mining companies use IEs in various roles such as planning and scheduling; process and maintenance management; but also in their logistical systems. This would typically involve studying maintenance and operations work, office processes, developing information systems and schedules for maintenance, determining optimal use of mobile plant, writing procedures, co-ordinating operational plans, evaluating capital expenditure proposals, etc.

Mining logistical systems are typified by the movement of huge quantities of material which generates the need to study and analyse movement and storage methods in stockpiles; blending, loading and unloading rates and their relation to conveyor systems, rail and port operations, port storage and ship loading. This may involve cycle studies including, delays, downtime and reliability; queuing theory and developing simulation systems.

Obtaining employment is difficult. Any of the ways of contacting potential employers would only gain an interview, not employment. There may be 20 to 60 applicants for a position. Sometimes 400! Usually no more than 10 are interviewed; it is often 6 or 4. Candidates would probably be expected to come to an interview at the requested time, arranging their own entry to Australia and transport to the interview location.

An alternative course is to form a relationship with a potential employer by asking for contract work that can be done on the net. This could be of more immediate financial benefit to candidates and form the basis for future employment with the particular customer or with someone that they may subsequently recommend the candidate to. Candidates would need to carefully craft any offer documents sent to prospects. This would involve the kind of work to be done for them, the candidate's resources, skills and experience, why the candidate should be hired. The prospect needs to know what can be done for them, how well the candidate can do it, how quickly it can be done and the basis for any charges the candidate will require. Targets could also include the Human Resources group within State and Federal government departments listed in the front of the phone book for each capital city or in the national e-phone book accessible on the Telstra website. Contact details are available online in the appropriate .gov areas.

5. INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING IN MARKETING ROLES

IE's approach to problem solving and evaluation of capital expenditure can be used as a basis for developing winning sales proposals wherever the purchase is a business proposition. Who could better represent the advantages of a new piece of production equipment for example? Or help the buying staff-person prepare the proposal for approval of the purchase? IE processes would be applicable to selling to many industrial customers, but might be most effective in selling manufacturing and materials handling equipment and systems. Some IEs work in selling scheduling and control systems. There are many other possibilities. To sell successfully, imagination, determination and a good deal of empathy as well as a sound technical background are needed.

6. INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND LOGISTICS

Logistics is the development and management of systems involving movement, storage, in-store processes such as maturation blending and assembly of loads, repackaging etc, transport, loading and unloading; scheduling, control, communication systems and, all the inter-dependencies and integrations to optimize the logistical system as a whole. The jobs might be called Transport Co-coordinator or in the mining industry it could be Train Scheduler or Transport Analyst or Logistician.

7. CONCLUSION

Overseas applicants for work in Australia will generally require permission to enter (such as a visa) and permission to work in the country. Initial contact should be made with the Australian Government's Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs. Their website is www.immi.gov.au

This information is offered in good faith, but it does not constitute advice. Persons considering this information must form their own views and act on their own responsibility.

Institute members are asked to review this information, and to offer information and suggestions that may improve its value.