

World in Work worked for me...

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I was made Redundant from a web hosting firm in November 2011.

Although I had a background working in IT, I undertook a few facilities & construction related courses whilst I was also actively looking for work.

Between May and October 2012 I was lucky enough to get temporary employment doing IT work at the Olympics and Paralympic Games.

That was a great experience whilst it lasted – but I obviously ended up back on the job market again in November 2012.

Although I managed to get various short term work roles after that, I was still hoping to get back into regular fulltime employment.

In the spring of 2013 I attended a Jobs Fair at Leyton Orient Football Ground. It was specifically aimed at people who had worked at the Olympics.

One of the stands there was for “World in Work”. At the stand I remember hearing about the World in Work concept – that jobseekers create a personal profile that participating companies can then see and respond to. I went home with a World in Work leaflet and thought I’d give it a go.

It was straightforward to create my World in Work profile – although like all serious job hunting it did take a bit of thought and preparation.

A few months later I received an email into my normal email account Inbox from a construction & facilities management firm asking me about my work situation.

After a few brief email exchanges with them – I got invited to an interview, and I then got offered a job ! (which I was delighted to accept).

So World in Work really did work for me. The employer “found me”, and now I’m happily employed in the facilities industry.

From my own job hunting experiences over the years, a few observations:

Getting a job is often a full time job in itself – but it’s important to keep trying and not get too discouraged.

All interview experience is good experience – even if you do not get the job. And do not take rejections personally.

Be prepared to re-invent yourself if necessary – re-train, look at casual and temporary work.

In addition to your CV, keep an ongoing written record of what you have done workwise – just brief bullet points.

Make a bullet point list of “your best phrases” that you can use in interviews. Make them brief, meaningful and genuine – and make sure you can briefly explain and back them up.

Do your own research. Find out about possible courses and opportunities yourself – do not rely on your local Jobcentre to do it all for you. You can even go to your Jobcentre with an opportunity you have found - and they may be able to introduce or refer you to that training provider or potential employer.

In interviews – be honest about what you’ve done and what your strengths and weaknesses are. Sometimes you may be pleasantly surprised to get that job offer – as I was !