



Temping for success

Introduction

Temping is becoming increasingly popular with workers today as it can provide many exciting opportunities. Many temporary workers today use their temping roles as stepping stones on the pathway to career success. The broad range of work experience received gives them the feel for a wide range of sectors, companies, working cultures and management styles.

Temping also provides flexibility which allows temporary workers time to pursue other interests such as travel or study. It is not only an excellent way to improve and broaden skill sets in areas where you may be lacking adequate qualifications and experience, but it also offers the chance to test yourself in different working environments so you can work out your relative strengths and weaknesses. It is also a great way to evaluate your employer to determine if the industry or working culture of the organisation is right for you should you choose to remain there for a longer period of time.

Temping Fast Facts

- The recruitment industry directly employs over 101,000 individuals
- 1,377 million temporary workers go out on assignment in the UK every week

REC Annual Industry & Key Volumes Survey
2006/07



How to ensure a steady stream of work as a temp

As soon as you start life in the temping world and begin looking for sensible career advice you can easily find yourself bombarded with guides, internet sites, brochures and articles all giving you guidance about how to choose a good temp agency; how to find a job and how to present yourself in an interview – all of which can be very confusing.

Being a good temp is all about flexibility. You need to be able to adapt and change to different work environments and cultures all the time which isn't always easy.

So how do you ensure that you have a steady stream of work? Below are some tips that may help you as you go along:

- **Be flexible.** The ideal contract may be just around the corner but it is worth getting your feet under the table and accepting short term contracts that will at least pay the rent rather than wait for that elusive perfect job. You also need to be flexible within your contract – never say 'that's not my job'.
- **Keep your agency informed.** If you do find a job, move house, change telephone number or are planning to leave the country, please inform your agency as they will want to help with several career moves – not just the next one.
- **Be professional.** When you start an assignment be punctual, reliable and presentable and make sure that you keep a professional attitude – you are never 'just a temp.'

- **Get your timesheet in on time, every time.** Agencies do not like paying you late and you will not like being paid late.
- **Be understanding.** A good consultant will always attempt to take your call, but if a consultant is unavailable when you call or does not contact you on a regular basis, it is not because he/she does not want to update you – it is because they are actively seeking a suitable position for you!
- **Don't lose touch.** It is in your interest not to lose touch with any of the agencies you have registered with even if you have become disillusioned and not heard from them for a while. The ideal position may become available at any time.

Being a good temp is a heady mixture of professionalism, flexibility, communication and understanding but it will all be worth it when you have a string of quality names on your CV with references to match!

To find out how you can take a step towards your next temporary assignment, please visit our website

www.roberthalf.co.uk



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