

## Looking for work in France



Working abroad sounds like an adventure to many people. However, it requires thorough preparation, starting with a successful application. Expertise in Labour Mobility has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in 31 countries. This is a brief abstract of the *Looking for work in France* guide, highlighting the main focus points. For more detailed information, consult the full guide on France.

### Work permits in France

- EEA citizens are free to move and work wherever they want to, within the EEA (including France).
- You must apply for a residence permit. This is valid for five years and should be issued within six months of your arrival.
- Contact the French embassy in your home country for more information.

### The application procedure in France

- Psychological tests are frequently used in France.
- Usually two to four interviews are held.
- A successful way of finding work in France is the speculative or open application.

### Writing a CV in France

- The key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for an interview. Therefore your CV is a marketing tool, which should be adapted to the market in which you intend to use it.
- The CV is either in reversed chronological or functional (activities grouped thematically) order.
- You should give your age, instead of your date of birth in a French CV.
- Language skills should be given in detail.

### The application letter in France

- The French application letter should be handwritten – graphology is a widely used selection method.
- Application letters should be very short – often not more than 10 to 15 lines.
- In the top right-hand corner you should mention the reference number of the vacancy, if applicable.
- In France, a photograph is often attached to the application letter.

### Do's & Don'ts in France

- Do**
- Prepare for questions about your hobbies if you mentioned them in your CV.
  - Look interested – ask questions.
  - Behave and dress very formally in France.
  - Ask for clarification if you don't understand the question.
  - Be able to provide examples to illustrate your achievements.
- Don't**
- Sit until invited to in a French interview.
  - Interrupt the interviewer.
  - Criticise former employers.
  - Go over the top – stay calm and stick to the facts.

### Management culture in France

- In France, business is characterised by a strong hierarchy – positions and power are clearly defined.
- French people have respect for competence.
- Secretaries in France work hard to protect their bosses from disturbances – you will hardly speak directly to people at top positions.
- Note that entrance to a room and the seating arrangement is organised according to rank.
- Elegance is the key word regarding the dress code in France.

For more information on employment in France, order the *Looking for work in France* guide – one of 28 Expertise in Labour Mobility *Looking for work in...* guides – at [www.labourmobility.com](http://www.labourmobility.com). It's all you need to make that first successful step abroad!

Good luck with your application in France!