



**Skills On The House Employability Skills Masterclass:
Why you must NEVER stay idle while job hunting
(+ What you should be doing)**

www.skillsonthehouse.com

Hi guys, welcome to this week's episode of the employability skills masterclass – my name is Genevieve, founder of Skills On The House. This week, we'll be talking all about the benefits of volunteering, working part-time, interning and just generally keeping busy while you work towards getting into a full-time position.

I find that a lot of young job seekers don't really understand the dynamics of the job market, and the importance of not staying idle while searching for a job. I really can't stress the importance of this enough. If you find yourself in a situation where you are out of a job, there are some things you can, and should do to build your profile and develop your skills while you continue to apply and interview for full time roles – if you can help it, you should NEVER EVER stay idle while trying to get a job. The reason for this is that the longer the period you're out of a job, the harder it is to eventually get your foot in the door.

Let me give you an example – imagine 2 graduates with the exact same credentials apply for the same graduate role...1 of them graduated 2 months ago, while the other has been searching for a job for the past 2 years – who do you think will have more difficulty getting a job? Yes, you guessed right – the guy who has been out of a job for the past 2 years. And the truth is that some employers will put a question mark over the applicant who has been out of work for a long period of time. Do you ask why? Well, they might wonder:

1. Why couldn't the person get a job for that long? Does it mean that he or she perform badly at interviews?
2. Or does it simply mean they are just not as good as they say they are on their CV?
3. Also, being out of work that long means some of the person's skills are rusty
4. Some people could also interpret it to mean that person has no drive to have been idle for that long

So today's advice is really for those of us in this category – who don't get a full time job for a while after graduation. We need to understand that there are some things we can do to build our personal profiles, CV's and most importantly our skills while we continue to search for a job – we should NEVER EVER be idle while job hunting. We have a variety of options regarding what we can do such as working part-time, volunteering, starting a small business, taking professional courses and lots more.

And just in case you are wondering '*What the point of doing all this?*' Here are some of the benefits I'm talking about:

1. You gain practical work experience and skills you can include on your CV's and talk about at interviews – this is so invaluable because it shows prospective employers that you are driven and willing to learn
2. Volunteering in particular enables you give back to society and impact lives. So not only are you learning and building yourself, you're also giving back and being useful to society as a whole
3. You get an opportunity to meet new people and generate new connections – you basically build your network
4. Starting your own small business shows that you have entrepreneurial skills which are an asset to any company because it means you are capable of spotting gaps in a market, and you have the confidence to take the necessary steps and action to fill that gap. It also shows a capacity for independent work and critical thinking

Honestly the benefits are endless – you might even end up getting the job you want through the network you build as a volunteer or even land a full time role with the organisation you volunteer with, you just need to have an open mind, take the role serious, stay committed and give it your best – like they say, whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.

Right now you might be asking yourself, where can I volunteer or get a part time job or internship – if you just look around you, follow the news, do some research online and on social media, you will find a whole bunch of information – you'll learn about non-profit organisations that are constantly looking for volunteers and also companies that are willing to take interns (One of my favourite sites to find companies looking for interns is <http://www.stutern.com/>).

You can even start your own volunteer group if you have an affinity or a passion for that – for instance, I volunteered as part of a group called the soup kitchen, which was created by a group of friends. I heard about the group through a friend of mine and joined them. And what we did was that we regularly went and set up food stands in different parts of town and served food to people who couldn't afford 3 square meals a day – there was so much involved in planning and organising these soup kitchens and we all picked up a lot of important skills. For instance, organisation, project management, time management, communication and team building. This was not only a fantastic learning experience for me personally, but it also provided an opportunity to discuss something a little bit different with hiring managers whenever I found myself in an interview.

With regards to internships and volunteer roles with for-profit organisations or companies, I will advise that you do your research and approach the companies that



interest you. Be bold, be confident, ask questions regarding what options and opportunities they have available outside full time roles. It's certainly not an easy task, I'm not saying it is, and you will get some 'No's' in the process but it'll be well worth it in the end.

Remember to be confident in everything you do, and keep pushing forward regardless of how difficult or unproductive the job search process might seem.

I really, really hope I've been able to get my point across, and I hope I've helped you see the importance of keeping busy while you wait to get a full time job.

So that's it for this week....I really hope you enjoyed the video. If you did, please share it with anyone you think will find it useful. You can also subscribe to my [YouTube Channel](#) and also sign-up on the website (www.skillsonthehouse.com) to have the videos delivered straight to your inbox every week. Thanks for watching and see you again next week.