

Comments from APU Graduates

Graduation Year: 2008 From: Japan Gender: Male
Industry: Airline Industry Job: General (main career track)

[Job Description]

I work in a general position for an airline company. At first I was interested in the areas of service and customer satisfaction, but since entering the company I have been in the pilot division. I manage pilots' schedules and find replacements when necessary due to everyday occurrences such as equipment failure, adverse weather conditions, delays and pilots being absent due to illness. It is my mission to ensure that all flights leave according to the set schedule. It is a very important job because one wrong decision could lead to a flight cancellation.

In addition to my usual position I have also been put in charge of various other jobs, such as creating operating procedure manuals, projects for the implementation of new systems, training new employees and carrying out recruitment interviews. I have also been involved with events that require the coordination of several divisions, such as the planning of flights to see the first sunrise of the new year, and inflight wedding ceremonies! A general job position in an airline company covers a vast array of fields and, particularly in my company, provides the opportunity to work with the pilots, cabin crew, mechanics and other professionals. These positions require people to learn a lot of specialist information, including related legislations, about each field, have strong communication skills and be able to make instant decisions. The airline industry has quite a glamorous image but it is actually not that glamorous and probably won't live up to those kinds of expectations, especially a job in a general position like mine, in which you are very much in the background, behind the scenes of the so-called glamorous positions. But, the sky holds many dreams and mine is an interesting job that helps support and make these dreams come true.

[Message to Students]

If I had to say which, I would say that job hunting is a lot harder than it is easy. It hardly ever goes to plan and you start to feel very insecure and anxious when you don't receive a job offer, are applying for job after job, and can't see the end in sight. To be honest my job hunt didn't go very well at first either. I still remember the feeling of frustration, the shock of not getting the job I wanted and seeing my friends get theirs and being able to finish their job hunting while I had to keep going. I really thought I was going to lose my way.

If you ever start to feel like this, I suggest you stop and get your thoughts and ideas in order. I got my job offer just after I had taken a break to re-evaluate both myself and what I wanted out of my job hunt. Organizing my thoughts meant they came out more naturally in my interview.

I don't think that job hunting determines your whole life. While there is no need to get down when things don't go according to plan, remember that job hunting isn't easy, and a job won't just fall into your lap unless you work hard. It might be a bumpy road but it is the chance to meet a variety of different companies. If you face the task at hand I just know that in the end you will meet a company that is right for you. I hope that all of you reading this will be successful in your job hunt and be able to use the wealth of knowledge and experiences you have acquired at APU in your new job

Comments from APU Graduates

Graduation Year: 2013 From: Thailand Gender: Female
Industry: Telecommunications Industry Job: Overseas Sales

[Job Description]

The focus of my job hunting was to try and find a job that 'contributed to both countries, and in which I could be a bridge between Japan and my homeland Thailand.' I have only been working for a year and a half but so far my wishes are coming true. I am working in the overseas sales of international phones to telecommunications companies in Europe, my homeland Thailand, and other countries in South East Asia.

To make international phone calls, there needs to be cables on the seabed connecting the telecommunications companies of countries around the globe. Of course not all these companies have cables under the sea and that is where our company comes in. We work as a bridge enabling international phone calls to be made without the use of these cables. We support not only our Japanese customers making calls overseas, but also our overseas customers making international calls. I work everyday with approximately 30 overseas telecommunications companies in offering customers the best service at the best price.

I am extremely grateful for finding a job in which I can utilize my experiences in Japan and what I learnt during my 4 years at APU, and a company that is helping me realize my dreams. Through the sales of international calls I will continue to strive towards realizing my dream, contributing to the development of an environment in which we are 'connected', not just here in Japan and Thailand, but around the world.

[Message to Students]

One of the most important things you need to know during job hunting is 'knowing society, knowing the company, and knowing yourself'. While industry and company analysis are both important aspects of job hunting, finding out more about yourself, things you don't already know, is even more important.

Unfortunately not getting past the entry sheet stage, or not passing an interview are just part of the trials you will experience during your job hunt. However, through these experiences you will learn more about yourself; how much support you have from your friends and family, how far you have come, and what kind of life and career you really want to have. Knowing all of this will help you grow.

During your job hunt don't try and cover up who you really are. It is better to just be you. You will be able to work for a longer time at a company that has given you a job based on who you really are.

Lastly, try and really enjoy the last of your student life. There are of course fun things when you get out into the workforce, but there are also a mountain of things you can only experience while at APU. You don't want to have any regrets so really put your all in and give it your best shot. And have fun!