

Newcomer Lands A Great Job in The Durham Region

Chris arrived from South Korea and landed in Toronto with a university degree and marketing experience. Choosing to move to the Durham Region with her young family, she found herself stuck at home during the pandemic with a growing feeling of hopelessness. She kept hearing people talk about the “new normal”. Chris knew it was time to make a change; she decided to improve her language skills and build a network. She wanted to contribute to her new community and find meaningful work.



On the website www.dce.ca she found a course for newcomers to Canada who are looking to reconnect with their profession. Enhanced Language Training (ELT) was exactly what she needed. She would be able to prepare for work and network with people in her profession. Chris says, “The course was awesome.” She said the instructor, Dorothy and the counsellor, Maureen were there to help with resume writing, interview skills and learning about Canadian culture in the workplace. “This is an opportunity you’ll never get anywhere else.” Chris tells newcomers, “You have your hidden treasures in yourself but sometimes you just don’t find it, but Maureen and Dorothy help you to find it and let you shine.”

The course, funded by IRCC, culminates in an internship which Chris says was the highlight. She was placed at Alzheimer Society of Durham where she worked on promoting upcoming events. She chose the Alzheimer Society because she wanted to help people in her community and make a difference. Following her internship, her host employer offered her a 10-month contract to work as their event and volunteer coordinator with potential for an extension. She says, “All the effort was really worth it!”

She learned so much from ELT and the internship provided the network she was searching for. They appreciated her skills and found a place for her in their organization.

For more information about Enhanced Language Training, go to www.dce.ca or contact maureen.johnston@ddsb.ca

Nailed It! Finding Your Dream Job Through Enhanced Language Training

After arriving in Canada in July, Suzana started applying for jobs. In Romania she had



worked for over 10 years at a global company. She didn't think it would take long; she had the skills and the experience, a resume and family in Canada to assist her but unfortunately, that was not enough. "As the weeks and months passed, I wasn't successful at all. I didn't even receive a request for an interview," says Suzana.

Everyone told her that no one would hire her without Canadian experience and that she needed to find a survival job.

Panic had set in and her confidence started to decline as 2021 was approaching. She was in shock that her skills and experience were not enough to find a job. After hearing about help for immigrants, Suzana discovered that there were services for immigrants at the Pickering Welcome Centre. She was in disbelief when an actual person answered the phone and helped her.

She was advised to inquire about Enhanced Language Training (ELT) with Durham Continuing Education (DCE), a program for internationally trained professionals. ELT is language training that helps immigrants find and keep jobs that match their skills and qualifications. DCE was offering this course online, the course was free and funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada.

Next Suzana connected with the coordinator for ELT, Maureen Johnston. After meeting with Maureen, she knew the course was what she needed. She knew something needed to change, she thought the course might help improve her resume or interview skills, but she had no idea how in-depth it would be, helping her to discover skills and tools she didn't even know existed.

Her first resume "was boring like a story. I didn't target the job". Her new resume "was tailored exactly (to) their job" said Suzana.

She learned so much about interview skills. She said, "It's how you present yourself. The most valuable thing I learned was how to answer interview questions." "I didn't even have an introduction before ELT. I would have just babbled something." Confident that she had the skills, she said her instructor Dorothy Tse helped her "pull them out." Dorothy's behavioural questions "were really spot on!" "I can really say I wouldn't have done it without all of you!" Suzana was singing the praises of staff at Durham Continuing Education: Sandy Carby, Dorothy and Maureen.

Suzana is ecstatic, she got her dream job! She had applied to Proctor & Gamble in August but after taking the ELT program with Durham Continuing Education she was encouraged to apply again, to the exact same position: "I wouldn't have gotten the job; I wouldn't have nailed* the interview." Suzana is grateful for the opportunity to take this ELT program and encourages other newcomers to do the same.

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**"nailed it" To succeed at something in a particularly impressive way
Source: thefreedictionary.com*

After Only Seven Months in Canada, During the Pandemic, Newcomer Found Employment at Multinational Company

Ivneet arrived in Canada from India and searched for employment. He was open to a wide market as he had a post graduate diploma in management and experience working in different industries. He was open-minded and could be a good fit for many employers, but he kept hearing the same advice, that networking is the key to finding employment. Although he had heard this from a variety of sources, he found it annoying. Many newcomers are frustrated by this method of job searching. A Canadian network is the one thing newcomers do not have, but it is something that they can grow.



Ivneet took advantage of a program funded by the federal government (IRCC) and registered for ELT through the Durham District School Board. Enhanced Language Training (ELT) is for internationally trained professionals with high language levels. It provides skills and knowledge required to reconnect with your profession, build a network and succeed in Canada.

Ivneet said ELT was “exceptional” because of the “personalized support that made a world of difference.” Ivneet sings the praises of his instructor Dorothy Tse. He said her “personal guidance, mentorship, and willingness to go out of (her) way to help has been invaluable.”

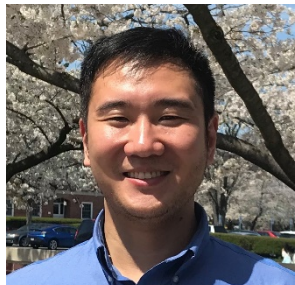
PricewaterhouseCoopers hired Ivneet on a one-year contract. He said one year is “enough time for me to demonstrate what I can do and hopefully use that (time) to excel within the organization.”

Ivneet is grateful for the Durham District School board offering ELT. He said, “I highly recommend it!” “It wouldn't have been possible for me to land a job if it weren't for this course.” He thinks, “Anyone who's new to Canada would greatly benefit from it.”

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How to Find your Canadian Dream Job

You've moved to Canada, started looking for work and can't believe how challenging it is.



Since the pandemic you find yourself competing with even more Canadians who have been laid off. Help is available. Just ask Chen. When I met Chen, I soon learned that he had 3 part-time jobs while participating in our program that helps internationally trained professionals who are looking to reconnect with their profession.

Chen is a driven individual and he reached out because he knew he needed help. First, he accessed the free services at the Pickering Welcome Centre (PWC) in November of 2020. He enrolled in the Job Search Workshop. His facilitator, Beth, provided the tools and assistance he needed.

Chen's network was small and the number of employers he could reach out to, seemed even smaller. Staff at the PWC suggested he enroll in ELT, a program offered through the Durham District School Board that included the internship Chen was looking for. The 8-week internship is coordinated through the DDSB and offers clients an opportunity to gain practical Canadian experience, to acquire references and inside knowledge of the Canadian workplace.

Chen is talented, is a great public speaker and presents well. He had faced layoffs himself during the pandemic and wanted to learn how to deal with the challenges he would face entering the Canadian job market. As a newcomer to Canada, with his PR card, his master's in business administration and experience working for universities in international recruitment, Chen was set to launch his career in the GTA.

He wanted to work at a top-notch university and put his recruitment skills to use. Ryerson University had everything he needed to make his dreams come true: a great university, in a dynamic city where his skills would shine. With the help of his Enhanced Language Training instructor, Dorothy, he prepared for interviews to handle challenging questions. Chen was thrilled to secure a full-time position working in the Office of the Registrar as a Recruitment Officer.

He will start in July and credits the help of Beth at the Pickering Welcome Centre and Dorothy at the Durham District School Board.

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A Permanent Full-Time Job with the help of ELT

Shivani arrived in Canada in March 20, 2021 and only 12 days later, began ELT, a program to assist newcomers as they prepare to find work. The online program during the provincial lock down did not slow Shivani down. She made friends, practiced for interviews and landed a job at a top accounting firm.



Shivani said it was difficult when she arrived in Canada, she knew only her husband and now was dealing with Canadian weather and language while searching for employment. Shivani had the training and experience she needed to work as an accountant. She had received guidance in her resume writing with the help of a local employment agency, but she needed to learn where and how to find employment and was interested in finding an internship. She was driven and said she was not going to let anything come between her and her career as a chartered accountant.

Shivani searched online to find employment agencies. She reached out to many organizations but in the end decided that ELT was exactly what she needed.

Shivani enjoyed making new friends in her class. She thought it was beneficial to be with like-minded people. "Making friends with them was the best thing." "We became a family."

The instructor, Dorothy, was an integral part. Shivani says that "Dorothy was able to focus on each and every student." "Dorothy makes everyone feel comfortable. She works hard to understand the problems [students] are facing."

While still attending ELT, Shivani had several interviews with KPMG, one of "The Big Four" international accounting firms. She said the staff at DCE were crucial to her preparation for the interviews. Shivani was impressed with how Dorothy and the ELT counsellor rescheduled their timetables to assist Shivani in preparing for her interview.

In the end, Shivani credits her instructor Dorothy for *bending over backwards** to accommodate mock interviews the days leading up to Shivani's interview with KPMG.

Although the internship was one of her reasons for starting ELT in Shivani's mind, in the end, she didn't need it. She was hired by KPMG and began work just as her classmates were starting their internships. Congratulations to Shivani in her permanent, full-time position as a Staff Accountant, CIM Team- Audit at KPMG Canada.

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* "bending over backwards" make every effort to do something, especially to help Source: theidioms.com

A New Beginning

Mortilaine is proud to be from the beautiful island of Jamaica but decided to venture out and join some of her family here in the Durham Region in December of 2020. She settled



into her new country and then started to look for work. She had a good education, skills and talent but she was getting advice from family and friends "that was not on point". One good piece of advice she took was to contact the Welcome Centre which proved very resourceful. The agency serves newcomers in the Durham Region. There she was fortunate to meet a settlement worker named Mohammad. Mortilaine was impressed with the information and guidance offered by Mohammad, he answered all her questions and she said, "Oh wow, this is great customer service."

Mohammad recommended Enhanced Language Training (ELT) to Mortilaine; he knew that ELT was a place where she would learn how to reconnect with her profession here in Canada. ELT, funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada, assists newcomers find work by teaching about where and how to find employment, Canadian workplace culture, interview skills, resume writing and more.

Mortilaine laughs when she compares the difference in her 4-page resume from back home to what is standard here in Canada. When speaking about ELT, Mortilaine says, "I certainly learned a lot." In Jamaica, "The more you can put on your resume the better but that's not so in Canada." It's "a different country, a different culture" and newcomers need help to understand the work environment. She proved successful in learning quickly under the guidance of her instructor, Dorothy from the Durham District School Board. Mortilaine said Dorothy "was great!"

Dorothy has been the ELT instructor at Durham Continuing Education for 5 years and she has helped so many newcomers. "It was not just a job for her," says Mortilaine, "I could definitely see her passion and her heart to really help and that is something that is very rare." Mortilaine speaks highly of Dorothy, "I felt like she was really invested in seeing the students succeed."

Mortilaine worked hard with the ELT coordinator, Maureen, on finding a valuable internship. Internships follow the 8 weeks of instruction and offer newcomers experience in a Canadian workplace, a chance to network with professionals an opportunity to gain Canadian references and more.

Mortilaine is an Instructional Technologist and Digital Design Specialist, which means she designs content for online courses. Maureen and was able to secure an internship for Mortilaine at Ontario Tech University in the Teaching and Learning Centre. Mortilaine was a hit* at her interview with the director and the team. Within days of her internship, staff let her know about a job posting. Mortilaine was hired as a Faculty Development Officer. ELT offers the kinds of connections that are invaluable when you are looking for a good job.

Mortilaine is grateful, for the friends she met in class, the connections she's made and the generous help of dedicated employees like Mohammad, Dorothy and Maureen.

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* "a hit" Idiom meaning "popular" e.g. The party was a hit. Dinner was a hit. He is a hit.
Source: Theidioms.com

After 8 years as a Stay-at-home Mom Physical Therapist returns to work

At first, Kerry was nervous to start looking for work in Canada. She was unsure what to say, how to look for work and unfamiliar with modern job search strategies. ELT offered her an opportunity to update her job search skills, learn about Canadian work culture and apply what she learned in the classroom to a work environment.



"Resume style is totally different" says Kerry who had a hard time knowing what to write. The placement coordinator "kept encouraging us", she kept giving new ideas and how to use specific words that would be "eye-catching". When Kerry applied the advice, she saw results. She was offered an internship with a Physiotherapy Clinic in downtown Oshawa.

Kerry had been at home for 8 years raising her young family since arriving in Canada and she didn't know where to begin. She wanted to reconnect with her profession. She had worked as a physiotherapist before coming to Canada. She was nervous and a little discouraged when she started ELT but the stay at home mom said her teacher and classmates kept her motivated. "We need to support each other!" "Wow, it works!"

After Kerry's internship, a coworker opened her own clinic and since she had worked with Kerry and knew how good she was, she offered Kerry a position as a physiotherapist assistant. Kerry was very satisfied with ELT and would recommend it to any newcomer who wants to reconnect with their profession.

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***"eye-catching" Idiom meaning to be noticed by someone e.g. That shiny red car at the dealership had really caught my eye; I wanted to buy it right away*
Source: theidioms.com

Finding Work in Canada is Made Easier with ELT

Just ask Ling who struggled for 2 years looking for work in the Durham Region. She found the Enhanced Language Training (ELT) course offered by the Durham District School Board and since completing the course has found a fulltime job in her field, with benefits!



Ling is a cost accountant but had few networking connections in Durham and little prospect of finding a job. Ling registered for ELT. She was nervous about her English and worried that she had been out of her profession for too long. Ling's teacher and classmates encouraged and supported her. Ling learned how to find work in Canada, she improved her resume, cover letter, job search strategies and interview skills.

Serving adult immigrants for over 30 years, Durham Continuing Education offers language classes to more than 600 immigrants a year. In 2006, ELT classes began. The course is 8 weeks long and is then followed by an 8 week internship. Internships offer an opportunity to gain valuable Canadian experience.

Ling's internship at an accounting firm in Whitby gave her the Canadian experience she needed to succeed.

Her host employer offered her a job following her internship. She was skilled and had proven herself vital to the company.

ELT classes are offered in the Durham Region through the DDSB. The classes have been offered at the Welcome Centres in Durham, Durham Continuing Education and even online during the recent Covid -19 pandemic. The free classes are funded by IRCC with free childminding available for eligible students.

If you are an internationally trained professional with Canadian Language Benchmarks of 6 or higher, contact the ELT coordinator to discover how ELT can help you.

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How to Find a Job in Canada

Finding work in Canada is a challenge for many newcomers. Adaobi faced the same challenges that many newcomers face. Most importantly she was missing an important key to success: knowing people! Adaobi had no professional network, no Canadian



experience and no local references. All that changed once she found an exciting new course offered by the Durham District School Board (DDSB) offered at the Pickering Welcome Centre.

The course provided Adaobi and her classmates exactly what they needed. During the 8-week course, students improve their resumes, cover letters, job search strategies and interview skills, then they experience what it's like to work in Canada. In an 8-week internship, organized by Durham Continuing Education, students are matched with an employer to network with people in their field and obtain Canadian experience for their resume. Adaobi was placed at an IT company in Whitby.

Instantly her employer recognized the talent of this skilled newcomer and before the internship ended, they asked her to work for the company.

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If you are an internationally trained professional with Canadian Language Benchmarks of 6 or higher, contact the coordinator to discover how we can help you.

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A Path to Success...Reconnecting with your Profession!

Leaving war-torn Syria, his job and his family behind, Ahmad and his wife, headed off for



the safety of Canada. It was a joyful day when they received the long-awaited news that they had been accepted by this country. They dreamed of a new life, one with safety, stability and success. They arrived in November 2017, had their language assessed in December, and were immediately enrolled at Durham Continuing Education in Oshawa.

They were soon part of the school community, engaged in full time LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) classes offered by the DDSB and funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC). With hard work and help from many instructors, they progressed from LINC 3 up to LINC 7, improving their English language skills each step of the way.

Ahmad had university degree and skills as a political analyst, researcher and writer. He decided to take Enhanced Language Training (ELT) offered through the DDSB. In the 8 weeks of instruction, Ahmad learned how and where to look for work and improved his interview skills. ELT offers an internship, an opportunity to work with an employer in order to gain valuable skills, network, build a resume, obtain a Canadian reference and reconnect with a person's profession.

Durham Workforce Authority generously offered to accept Ahmad as a researcher. DWA provides "reliable research focused on local labour market information". The executive director, Heather McMillan says, "From a host perspective, the oversight has been minimal, the addition to the office team has been amazing and the support from the DDSB has been great. This is a phenomenal program that benefits students, employers, and our community at large."

Ahmad has now been offered a contract by DWA and is looking forward to a bright future. His advice to newcomers is take time to learn, improve your English, have integrity and honesty and work hard, be patient and your dreams will come true.

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