

Graduated and Unemployed...What now?

By Joya Lawrence and Jessica Bennett-Michael (feel free to add us on linkedIn)

Congrats! You made it! You've graduated, you decided to take a chance in Italy because why not? You have a stellar degree, a kickass graduation photo, and now your scholarships have ended, your parents can't give you money, AND you have spent all your savings. So what should you do now?

1. Apply for unemployment with the Centro per l'Impiego

www.venetolavoro.it

This is important for you **ricerco lavoro** permesso! They can help set you with an agency or with a course to help build your skills for your CV. They also help you upload your CV into their database to help you connect with employers.

Look into the different Agencies before picking one as they have different specialties. These are some local/non-local which may have in-person and remote works:

GI Group joins DNV Careers Adecco Openjobmetis Randstad
UMANA Euroiterim Synergie Italia Lavoropiù

2. Ask your friends and professors for help.

They already know you and hopefully they also like you. They might know something, or they might not. Better to ask than miss an opportunity.

3. If you want to stay in Italy, get the required documents to stay.

This may look different depending on what you route you follow, but main ones are Carta d'identità, residenza, permesso di soggiorno, etc.

4. Learn Italian!

You've heard it before and you'll hear it again. But learn Italian. If that means changing your phone to only read in Italian, or watching TV in Italian... DO IT. But if you are wanting to stay in Italy, you NEED to learn Italian. Check out programs offered by the commune, the university (there are some low-cost programs for students), online lessons or local language schools.

5. Update and look into jobs through LinkedIn, Indeed, and other places.

When you find job that looks interesting for you, check the listing to see if there is a direct email address to send your information to. If it's only a quick apply, find out if you have a familiar connection or someone in their HR/hiring department AND REACH OUT WITH A MESSAGE!! If there is no one you can find or it's a small company, start to look at their workers profiles. Since you can see who's viewed you profile, they will usually look back at yours too. Check out other job sites as well.

<https://www.winejob.it/>

<https://vinojobs.it/>

6. See what your community can offer you

Check for language courses that are specifically for foreigners. CIPA is the main one in my community but there are other ones as well. Check your Comune's webpage. But also, look up volunteering while being unemployed. It's a good way to network outside of your regular friend group.

7. Check out Facebook and other social media platforms

Find groups and communities that share likeminded ideas in your area to create connections. Like to Run? Find a Strava run club. Like to socialize? Find aperitivo meet-ups with internationals. There are usually Italians there as well and maybe you can find someone to do a language exchange with! Ladies, there is a group called Girls Gone International (GGI) and there is a group in Venice and one in Padova that meet up regularly to have drinks, go to events, museums or do arts and crafts. This can lead to friends and connections. There are also facebook groups for traveling winemakers, etc..

8. Figure out how to get a driver's license.

If your country has an agreement with Italy, get your drivers license converted. You need to do this within one year of fiscal residency, but if to stay here, it will make getting around A LOT easier. Lots of jobs want you to have a driver's license so make it easier for yourself and start thinking about this sooner rather than later.

9. Don't burn yourself out

Looking for jobs is exhausting and stressful. Looking at a screen all day is tiring for your eyes and probably your soul. Sometime applying just to apply isn't useful, so go outside and stretch your legs, maybe a store or restaurant in your area is hiring and you would have missed it if you stayed inside all day. Remember, your first job doesn't have to be your final job. And if you are finding things to be difficult and overwhelming, seek out a therapist.

10. Connect with the alumni association

The Unipd alumni association offers a variety of connections and services. Sign up and check out their website. There are events, job postings and more.

11. Career Service

Even if you have graduated, you can still get help from career services! Career services can help with reviewing your CV and giving you advice. Career services also hosts some really great online events about entering the workforce, different areas of interest and other job related advice like starting a partita IVA.