

What do employers really want?

*"We've got hundreds of applications to sort through!
What are we really looking for?"*

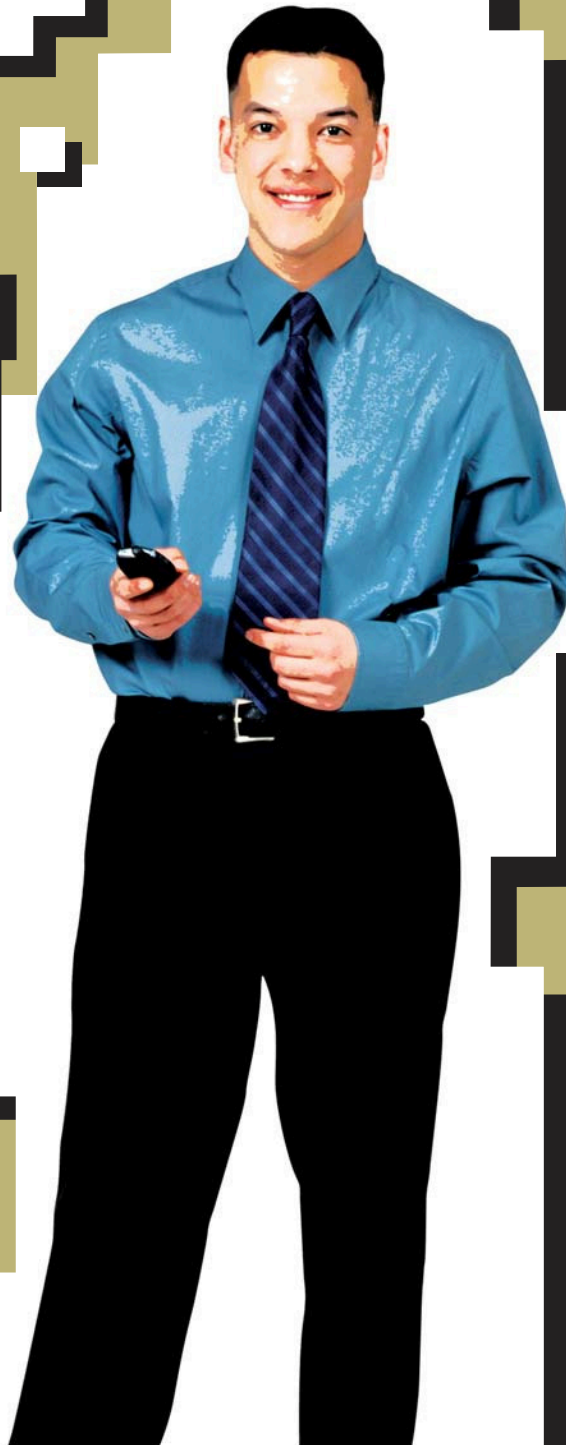
Recent surveys of employers have shown that they decide who to employ not only on the basis of their academic achievements and the content of their degree but also on their ability to show they have developed a wide range of other skills and have had work experience.

People skills

- **Leadership** - taking responsibility and getting things done
- **Team working** - being able to work with others and listen
- **Interpersonal skills** - being good with people from a wide range of backgrounds

Specialist Skills

- **IT skills** - having strong computer knowledge (you need basic IT skills for almost every job)
- **Technical skills** - having knowledge of real work areas often related to your vocational degree
- **Business understanding/ commercial awareness** - having a sound knowledge of the workings of the business world and in particular the organisation for which you are applying



Self Reliance Skills

- **Self awareness** - feeling confident about yourself and your abilities
- **Resourcefulness** - using your initiative, being motivated and planning ahead, creating new ideas, working independently
- **Networking skills** - being good at linking up with others so you can help each other

General skills

- **Problem solving** - being practical and quick witted to ensure results
- **Commitment** - being dependable, trustworthy and dedicated
- **Flexibility** - being willing to do lots of different types of work and adapting to change
- **Good communication skills** - the ability to communicate, verbally and in writing, with a wide range of people
- **Being well organised** - managing your time effectively, being able to prioritise work