



Directions for Immigrants in
Trades and Professional Careers

Directions Headlines

Issue 14

March 2012

Upcoming Study Group Start Dates:

Pharmacy: March 13

Engineering, Geosciences:
Apr 18 & 21

Clear Communication for
Business (All professions):
Apr 19

Clear Communication for
Health Professionals (All
health professions): Apr 16

Medicine (International
Medical Graduates): Apr 12

Nursing: Jun 26

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Over 100 Internationally Educated Professionals have Completed Clear Communication for Business

When recruiters evaluate a candidate, they often value soft skills as much as technical skills. Those professionals who demonstrate confidence, work well with others, and positively give and receive feedback are more likely to be hired.

Directions for Immigrants offers a Clear Communication for Business (CCB) job success study group which focuses on the development of essential communication skills required to be successful in the workplace. The 3-hour sessions run once a week for 10 weeks.

To date, over 100 internationally educated professionals have completed the CCB study group and learned about: building group cohesiveness, techniques for overcoming communication barriers, active listening principles, giving and receiving feedback, problem solving, conflict resolution and teamwork.

Zachary Li, an internationally educated chemist and a current participant of the group is impressed with the information provided on employers' expectations. "We get familiar with the dynamics of the local workplace environment."

Building confidence is one of the objectives that has made a difference for Linda Li, an internationally educated accountant and CCB



“Some aspects such as team work and speaking clearly might be obvious but putting them into practice in a multicultural environment will help us in our professional development”

Nelson Gutiérrez

participant: "I really enjoy coming to the sessions especially because I have learned to clearly explain my ideas. Before, that was one of my weaknesses."

The CCB study group has a significant amount of role playing. Nelson Gutiérrez, an internationally educated electrical engineer, appreciates practicing what he has read in communication books: "Some

aspects such as team work and speaking clearly might be obvious but putting them into practice in a multicultural environment will help us in our professional development."

According to Joumana Tasse, CCB facilitator and career coach at Directions, soft skills are required to get and keep the job regardless of the candidate's professional background. For that reason, internationally educated professionals in the areas of business, human resources, marketing, accounting, banking, social work and many other fields have participated.

Conflict resolution is one of the most significant learning outcomes of the group, according to Joumana. *(continues on page 2)*

Interested in a Directions **Info Session** for your group? Book it today!

Call 403-441-2259



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Providing and receiving positive feedback is a key component

(cont. from page 1) The facilitator explains that conflict is often understood in other cultures as an aggressive dispute. In the Canadian workplace it is usually when two people have different points of view to the same problem. Participants get to practice how to come to agreements on common ground.

For conflict resolution, Zachary will now follow three basic steps: evaluate the situation, attempt to solve the differences and find collaboration together.

Solving problems, gathering information, getting along with

Job Success Study Groups

- ◆ Clear Communication for Business
- ◆ Clear Communication for Health Care Professionals

others, cooperating with the team to achieve common goals, making decisions and maintaining a positive attitude are listed as employability skills, according to the Marketing your Employability Skills Tip Sheet published by the Alberta Learning Information Service of the Government of Alberta.

For Boniface Nsabimana, an internationally educated chemist and CCB participant, making decisions and collaborating with

others are some of the most important skills he has practiced: "We are not expected to be passive in the workplace."

The CCB lesson structure is continuously being adapted to the clients' needs. The next CCB study group starts on April 19 and the Clear Communication for Health Care Professionals on April 16. Contact Directions to find out how to join.



Your International Experience Counts

"No matter where you worked, your international experience does count when looking for a job," assured Stefan Constantinescu, Program Manager at Gemini Corporation during the Industry Networking Session offered at Directions on February 22.

Stefan advised Directions' clients to market their skills and experience on a carefully written resume and through LinkedIn. "Professional regulations are strict in Alberta," affirmed the speaker who suggested clients to get familiar with those rules pertaining to the different occupations with their career coach. Stefan also informed the clients on Gemini Corporation's current projects and hiring practices.

Winter Highlights

Profession	Service	Date of completion
Engineering and Geosciences	National Professional Practice Exam Study Group 2 groups: Wednesdays and Saturdays	Jan 11 and Jan 14
Nursing	Canadian Registered Nurse Exam Study Group	Jan 24
Medicine (International Medical Graduates)	National Assessment Collaboration Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)	March 8
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Evaluating Exam 2 groups: Wednesdays and Saturdays	Jan 4 and Jan 7
All professions	Industry Networking Session: <i>Hatch</i> , a company overview, hiring practices and job search tips	Dec 21
All professions	Industry Networking Session: <i>Husky</i> , a company overview, hiring practices and job search tips	Jan 25
All professions	Industry Networking Session: <i>Gemini Corporation</i> , a company overview, hiring practices and job search tips	Feb 22

Groups fill up quickly! Meet with a career coach to get your name on the list!

Clients' feedback

"To get prepared to look for a job and have an interview, one must attend this workshop"

Abdul Samad, participant
Orientation and Job Search
Strategies workshop

"Very good, interesting and practical. I have learned useful tips and shared experiences. Great facilitator!"

Nina Smith, participant
How to Network workshop

LinkedIn Info Session

Join our upcoming hands-on and interactive LinkedIn Info Session in our computer lab on March 22. Enhance your profile, expand your network and get immediate feedback from a career coach. Registration: Contact 403-297-2555 for eligibility requirements



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Helping Immigrant Professionals restart their careers in Alberta

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Directions for Immigrants supports internationally trained and experienced professionals towards securing employment in their profession and gaining accreditation.

- Career Coaching
- Study Groups for Licensing Exams
- Workplace Communication
- Industry Networking Sessions

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