

*You go through years of study, assignments, tests and stress; then it's graduation and time to start looking for a job, but unfortunately its not that easy.*

According to Melanie Holland a career consultant at the AUT Career Centre, 80 per cent of available jobs are not advertised. This means that the thousands of jobs listed on internet sites and the 30 pages in the *New Zealand Herald* employment section represent a tiny number of the positions available.

“At the end of the year it's all ‘woo hoo I've finished uni now I've just got to find a job’ but by then it's too late. Students should start looking for jobs as early as possible,” says Ms Holland. “We get herds of people coming into the Career Centre at one time during the end of the year. All the universities finish at the same time so you end up competing with everyone.”

According to Ms Holland it is very common for students to get desperate when they don't find a job right away and people end up taking a job that is beneath their skill level.

One of the ways to get ahead in the job market is to take part in one of the **KEYS to Career Success courses** run through the AUT KEYS programme. The KEYS programme is free to all AUT students and has been put together to help students get skills that will help them make it through university. There are 20 KEYS papers divided into academic, leadership, career and personal programmes.

***Ms Holland says first and second year students finds KEYS to Clarifying Your Career Path most useful for helping make decisions about which paper or majors to chose.***

Parikshit Basrur is in his second year of a Post Graduate Diploma in Computer and Information Sciences and has completed the KEYS to Clarifying Your Career Path. “It is a real eye- opener when you write down everything about yourself on paper, and you just realize what career path suits you the best,” he says. “The unique thing about this course, is it helps you understand yourself better and of course, you can always have more than one career path; these programs just make it easy to choose.”

***For those in their last year KEYS to Enhancing Your Employability is “essential” to all students in their final year.***

“We help people get good jobs that are satisfying and match what they have been studying,” says Ms Holland. She says the kiwi culture trait that people don't want to say what they are good at can let them down in a job interview. “Americans are good at talking about what they are good at. Kiwis and Asians are different.”

Ms Holland says the best things to come out of the KEYS to Enhancing Your Employability is the ability to network, make contacts and get into organisations through other ways apart from classified ads.

***“We help people find that hidden job market and schmooze with the right people.”***

The KEYS programme is taught through workshops that run once a week or a full day during the weekend. Some papers are also available online including KEYS to Enhancing Your Employability.

***For more information about the KEYS programme visit***

***[http://www.aut.ac.nz/schools/education/keys\\_programme/](http://www.aut.ac.nz/schools/education/keys_programme/)***

***To register for any KEYS paper, complete one of the following:***

Online: ***[http://www.aut.ac.nz/schools/education/keys\\_programme/registration.htm](http://www.aut.ac.nz/schools/education/keys_programme/registration.htm)***

Email: ***[studentinfo@aut.ac.nz](mailto:studentinfo@aut.ac.nz)***

Phone: 09 921 9779

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