



USE YOUR CONTACTS

Name: Rania Kfoury
Age: 31

Was: PR consultant
“When I was laid off I wasn’t surprised,

as I had seen it coming. In circumstances like this, the company makes business decisions to sustain itself and as I was one of the newest recruits, and only worked part-time, it made sense.

My husband and I have lived in Dubai for five years, so we decided to stick it out and only leave if he lost his job too. For a while everything seemed bad in Dubai – everyone froze their recruiting. Finding jobs elsewhere seemed easier; indeed, many of my friends found opportunities back home or in other Arab countries. For some, it was the only option really, because the cost of living in Dubai is too high to be unemployed for any real length of time.

I was extremely lucky. Only two days after I was made redundant, I got a call from my now current employer who happened to need a new team member. For me, it was my contacts that got me out of a tricky situation.”



USE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Name: Tom Watterson
Age: 25

Was: PR executive

“I was gutted when I was made redundant. But the company I worked for was really helpful with advice and contacts. I really wanted to stay in Dubai because the situation back home seemed so dire and depressing. Also, in Dubai unemployment means sun and beaches (after job searching, obviously), whereas in England it tends to mean daytime TV and pot noodles!

When I initially lost my job, there seemed to be lots of vacancies in the market and I went for about five interviews. But they all fell through and I was really close to going home, which I was dreading. Thankfully, three weeks later, I



AND THE EXPERT SAYS...

William Buck is a recruitment consultant for Macdonald and Company

- The main thing is to be proactive. I'd advise working with one recruitment agency that specialises in your field and who understands the market properly.

- Use contacts in your industry, but make sure you use the right ones. Ask yourself: how long has your contact been working at their company? How senior are they? How much influence do they have on the hiring process?

- Many people think that, in this climate, it's best to apply to companies directly. But, in actual fact, companies are still using the best agencies as they want to attract the best talent.

- It's harder to change fields in the current climate. Employers are becoming more specific in what they're looking for because they can afford to be. They're being selective and can generally find someone with the exact skills and background they are looking for. So if you're thinking of changing fields, speak to the professionals you know, as well as any recruiters from that industry, or even a career coach.

found another job in the same field through a recruitment agency, PRJS.

I'd done everything I could; I'd signed up to loads of job websites and recruitment consultants, as well as emailing all my contacts. I got lots of advice, refined my CV and just put it out there. I think I was just really lucky. I got my new job in March just before everything really fell to pieces. If it had been any later, I think I'd be at home now.”