

LANDING A JOB IN KOREA

**A STARTER KIT FOR
FOREIGNERS**



Written by:
Casimir Agossou

Assist**me**



Welcome Message

If you're reading this, it probably means you're dreaming of building something meaningful in Korea. Maybe you're preparing to take your first steps into the Korean job market. Maybe you're already here, searching for where you belong. Wherever you are in your journey, I want you to know something very important: **you're not alone.**

I created this guide because I know what it feels like to be a foreigner trying to make it here. I've lived through the confusion, the cultural barriers, the visa struggles, and the feeling of being misunderstood. It's not easy. Sometimes it feels like no one really gets what you're going through.

But I do. And I made this not just to give you tips or checklists. I made it to **offer support, to give you clarity**, and most of all, to remind you that **someone truly cares about your journey.**

This is more than a guide. It's a small piece of encouragement. A reminder that **your dreams are valid.** That your presence matters. And that with the right support and information, you can absolutely build a future here that you're proud of, just like many others.

So take your time, breathe through the process, and know that I'm rooting for you.

With appreciation,

Casimir

CEO & Founder of Assist-Me



About the author

Hi, I'm Casimir, founder of Assist-me, a platform dedicated to helping foreigners succeed in Korea. After living here for **over 10 years** and experiencing life as a student, job seeker, office worker, model, and now entrepreneur, I understand the unique challenges foreigners face.

My mission is to make **life in Korea easier and more rewarding** for those who choose to build their future here. Whether you're looking for a job, starting a business, or simply trying to settle in, I provide personalized support, practical resources, and real-life strategies to help you thrive.

Through mentoring, workshops, and hands-on services, I aim to bridge the gap between ambition and opportunity for the foreign community in Korea.

Let's build something meaningful, together.



Casimir Agossou
Founder



From Struggle to Job Offer: We Assist You

Who is this book for?

The Go-Getter

This guide is for ambitious individuals who are determined to make their mark in Korea. If you're the type of person who doesn't give up easily, who believes in preparation, strategy, and showing up fully, you're in the right place.

The Student or Recent Graduate

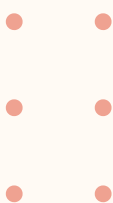
If you're studying in Korea or just graduated, and now find yourself unsure of what's next, this guide will help you move forward with clarity and confidence. It is designed to bridge the gap between education and employment.

The Job Seeker

You've sent out resumes. You've been to interviews. But nothing's clicking. This book will help you stop guessing and start aligning your profile with the Korean job market in a practical, effective way.

Special Gift for You

I have a special gift for you at the end of this guide. Make sure to read it all and then your Bonus gift will be waiting for you.



LET'S GET STARTED



01 Working in Korea as a Foreigner

Working in Korea as a foreigner is a unique challenge and opportunity. You're not just applying for a job in a different language or system; you're stepping into a highly competitive and culturally distinct labor market.

Korea has been experiencing rapid economic growth, but also a demographic crisis. An aging population means a shortage of workers. This is creating space for foreigners, yet not everyone will qualify or succeed.

Even those with advanced degrees, even PhDs often find themselves working in jobs that don't match their qualifications. Why? Because having a degree is not enough in Korea. You need the right degree, skills, language ability, visa eligibility, and industry alignment.

02 Understand the Korean Labor Market

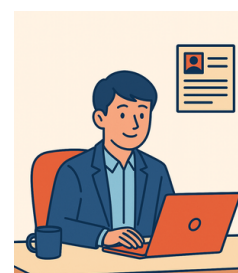
Korea's job market offers different types of opportunities depending on your *background, visa type, and field of expertise*. It's important to understand where the demand is and where it's not before spending time, energy, and money chasing something that won't work.

1. Professional Jobs (Office-based)

These are jobs that typically require a degree, specialized skills, or relevant work experience. They are aligned with Korea's export-driven economy and its need to stay competitive globally.

Fields with high demand:


- Engineering (especially mechanical, electrical, and industrial)
- Technology (software development, AI, data analysis)
- Digital Marketing and Overseas Sales
- Foreign Language Education (mostly English)
- Global Trade, Import-Export, and Logistics
- Researcher and Assistant professor



Limited demand:

- Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Unless you're aiming for academia or hold a highly specialized or niche skill, people with these majors mostly get jobs in overseas sales by using their language background and insight about the global market.

 **Real Talk:** Many foreigners lose valuable years chasing jobs in fields where the market has little to no demand. In Korea, you don't have unlimited time, especially if you're a student or just graduated. Make smart, strategic moves fast. Visa runs out faster than you could think and you will have to leave the country.

2. Non-Professional Jobs (Manual Labor / E-9 Visa)

These are physically demanding roles in factories, agriculture, construction, fisheries, etc., under Korea's Employment Permit System (EPS). While they may seem open to anyone, not everyone is eligible. apply for manual labor jobs through the E-9 visa route.

⚠ Only nationals from the following 16 countries can apply for the E-9 visa:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

If you're not from one of these countries, you cannot apply for manual labor jobs through the E-9 visa route.

**Final Thought:**

Korea is full of opportunity, but only if you align your strategy with reality. Know what's possible for your background and nationality, and go where the demand is. Your time, especially on a limited visa, is too precious to waste.



03 The Emotional Roller Coaster

If you've been job hunting here, you've probably experienced these stages:

1. **Hope:** "I have a degree, I'll be fine!"
2. **Confusion:** "Why am I getting no replies?"
3. **Frustration:** "Even unpaid internships won't take me!"
4. **Despair:** "Should I leave Korea?"
5. **Restart or Give Up:** Some adapt, others go home.



You're not alone. This journey is emotional, and it's okay to feel stuck. There is however a way to go through the process without being too much affected, and this is what I teach during my **workshops and in the mentoring program**. What matters is how you get ready to approach your job search journey.

04 The 3 Big Barriers to Employment in Korea

1. Having the Right Skills

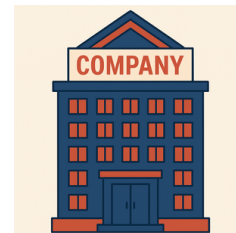
You must be really relevant and offer something that Korean candidates can't:

- Tech skills (coding, data, AI, cybersecurity)
- Foreign Languages (especially English, Japanese, Chinese, etc.)
- International business knowledge
- Soft skills (presentation, communication, cultural fluency)

Bonus Tip: Even basic Korean (TOPIK level 2–3) can significantly boost your chances. Language skills are just as important as job qualifications. Put in the effort to speak, read, and understand Korean. Companies don't expect perfect fluency, but they do expect you to communicate without major issues. Take online classes if needed—whatever helps you improve your proficiency.

2. Finding Companies That Can Legally Hire You

Not all companies in Korea are allowed or qualified to hire foreigners.



Key issues:

- Visa sponsorship requires time, documents, and budget
- 5:1 rule: A company must have 5 Korean employees to hire 1 foreigner in most industries
- Many SMEs don't know how to navigate immigration bureaucracy

Example: I once thought I landed a great job... only to discover the company had only 3 Korean staff, meaning they couldn't legally hire me.

3. Getting Through Immigration

Even if you have an offer, immigration might say “no.”

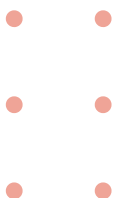
Why?

- You don't meet the visa requirements (degree, salary, field)
- The company hasn't filed the paperwork correctly
- Your job doesn't match your visa category
- The ratio Korean, Foreigners is to met



For this, you might need an administrative attorney to process your visa properly. If your company isn't providing then you need to hire one by yourself.

Tips: Immigration can be a real headache if you don't have everything in order. Don't assume your company knows exactly what to do. Take matters into your own hands and make sure you have the right information before moving forward. No one cares about your future as much as you do.



05 Visa Types

It is always better to know what visa you will be applying for later before even start looking for a job. The job you get might come with a specific visa required.

- **E-1:** Professor
- **E-2:** Teaching Foreign language
- **E-3:** Researcher
- **E-6:** Creative, entertainment (Tiktoker or Youtuber)
- **E-7:** Professional jobs (most common)
- **E-9:** Manual labor
- **F-2-R:** Confined to specific regions



If you change jobs, you must transfer your visa which is not always easy. Your previous employer has to give you a letter of release. If he doesn't then this is the beginning of your troubles; you are stuck in a job you can't get out of.

06 Application materials

Don't apply blindly, prepare these in advance. Keep this in mind people will always judge you based on the materials you submitted for the job. You better nail it and create materials that will make them so eager to see you in person.

1. Resume (Korean Style)

- Resume focused on only one skill (Or position) with photo, summary, skills, and experience including volunteering (Include experiences in Korea even Alba can help you)
- Include Korean proficiency and visa type/status
- Format simply: no flashy colors or design (use the format of the major job boards, don't try to be smart and create your own format. It might not help you). Here, conformity is better than being unique.

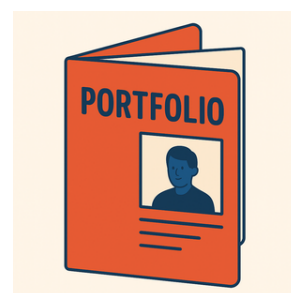


2. Cover Letter

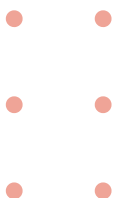
- Show your uniqueness here: Why would they hire you over a Korean with similar skills to you? You get to make it very appealing. It could be your language skills or your ability to understand some specific market, or your insight.
- Share why you're passionate about Korea or the role
- Match your experience to what they need.
- Don't talk about your life: How poor or rich your family was and what kind of environment you grew up in, unless the job description required it. Not every recruiter will see it with a positive eye. Stick to how you can help them grow and solve their problem

3. Portfolio (Optional but Powerful)

- For tech, design, writing, or education roles
- Showcase your work with visuals or links
- Include descriptions of your role and results



Tips: If your Korean is good submit your resume in Korean, if your Korean is terrible still submit it in Korean after translation and proofreading it by a Korean friend (Even chatGPT can help you if you know how to ask kindly and efficiently). Submit the English version if requested because most employers won't even open it if it is in English. And again it depends on the position you are applying for. There is always room for flexibility.



07 Where to Find Jobs in Korea

People often say that they don't know where to search for jobs in Korea or sometimes that there is no job for foreigners in Korea. Really?

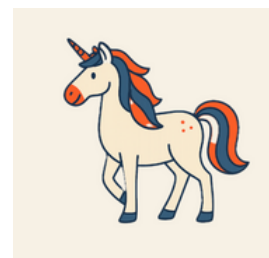
From now on there is **no excuse anymore**. Here are the top platforms foreigners can use to find a job in Korea:



Category	Nbr	Website	Note
For Korean speakers	1	https://www.jobkorea.co.kr/	A lot of job posted daily
	2	https://www.saramin.co.kr/	A lot of job posted daily
	3	https://www.hibrain.net/	Good for research positions and post-doc
For Non-Korean Speakers	1	https://dev-korea.com/	IT jobs in Korea and abroad
	2	https://kowork.kr/	Long history with foreigners
	3	https://www.klik.co.kr/	Foreign version of JobKorea
	4	https://komate.saramin.co.kr/	Foreign version of Saranim
	5	https://www.jobploy.kr/	Blue color and office jobs (5000+ active jobs)
	6	https://www.peoplenjob.com/	Both in Korean and English
	7	https://grab-job.com/	Worth exploring
	8	https://www.buddieskorea.com/	Worth exploring
	9	https://jobbridge.kr/	Worth exploring
	10	https://winwinjobs.co.kr/	Worth exploring

08 How to Stand Out to Korean Employers

- **Unique Value:** Emphasize what you offer that locals may not; like global perspective, languages, and cross-cultural communication.
- **Cultural Fit:** Show understanding of Korean work culture: hierarchy, teamwork, etiquette.
- **Clear and irresistible Offer:** Prove how you'll help the company make money, save time, or grow.



EXAMPLE PITCH:

“As a bilingual software developer with experience in both Africa and Europe, I bring an international lens to your projects targeting global users. I also understand how to localize apps for African markets; an edge few Korean developers have.”

“As a trilingual sales professional with experience in Southeast Asia and Europe, I bring a deep understanding of cross-cultural communication and international buyer behavior. I can help your company expand its global reach by building trust with overseas clients, adapting sales strategies to local markets, and closing deals that align with both Korean business values and international expectations.”

Tips: If your Korean is good submit your resume in Korean, if your Korean is terrible still submit it in Korean after translation and proofreading it by a Korean friend (Even chatGPT can help you if you know how to ask kindly and efficiently). Submit the English version if requested because most employers won't even open it if it is in English. And again it depends on the position you are applying for. There is always room for flexibility.

09 10 Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Applying without understanding visa limitations
2. Using the same CV for every job (unless it is the same position)
3. Focusing only on jobs related to your majors
4. Relying only on LinkedIn (Very limited)
5. Skipping networking opportunities
6. Writing long, generic cover letters
7. Expecting your degree alone to land you the job
8. Refusing to learn Korean at all
9. Being too casual with dress (Be just like anyone else)
10. Giving up too soon (this option is out of order)



10 3-Step Action Plan to Kickstart Your Job Search

1. Define the Role You Want

Get specific. Choose a job title, field, and company type.

Whenever someone answers “Any kind of job” to the question “What kind of job are you looking for?”, I know they’re not ready yet to get a job.

You can’t get what you don’t know. Without direction, you’ll end up somewhere, but never where you truly want to go.

Your goal has to be very specific.

Why? Because it’s what **determines how you write your CV, craft your cover letter**, and navigate every step of the job search process.

BAD: “Anything or Any kind of job”

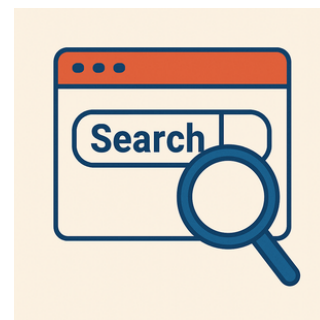
GOOD: “Marketing assistant at a cosmetic startup targeting Southeast Asia”



2. Research What They Want

Search job boards and note:

- Required skills (language, tools, certificates)
- Salary expectations
- Visa eligibility



The sad reality is that no company is truly interested in you; they're interested in what you can do for them.

To get hired, you need to speak their language, understand their needs, and show how your skills directly solve their problems.

Position yourself not just as a candidate, but as the solution they've been looking for.

3. Make Your Resume and Cover letter punchy

- Write your resume and cover letter to match the job you want.
- Speak to what they value, not just what you've done.
- Focus on the value you are offering

11 Congratulations Buddy

If you're reading this, it means you didn't just start. You finished. That alone says a lot about your determination, your curiosity, and your **commitment to building a better future in Korea**. So take a moment and give yourself some real credit. Most people don't even make it this far.

And you know what? You're not alone in this journey. I've been where you are, and I created this guide to make sure you don't have to figure it all out by yourself.

This is the surface and there is a lot more to know. If you want to go further and learn more, I can assist you personally. This is how I can help you on your journey.

How Assist-Me Can Help You Get Hired in Korea

1. Group Workshop

Practical guidance in a dynamic group setting

You'll get:

- 6 to 8-hour live session (online or offline)
- Insider tips on what Korean recruiters look for
- Real-time feedback on your resume and job strategy
- Networking with fellow job seekers
- A workbook to continue learning after the session



2. One-on-One Consultation

Personalized insights for your unique situation

You'll get:

- A 60-minute private session
- Resume and profile review
- Answers to your most pressing questions
- Strategy tailored to your background and visa type



3. One-on-One Mentoring

Ongoing support to transform your journey

You'll get:

- Weekly 1:1 sessions for 2 full month (2 calls/week)
- Deep-dive career planning and goal setting
- Help with applications, interviews, and networking
- Continuous support via private chat between sessions
- Priority access to job leads and insider updates



Reach out here:

www.assist-me.services

Email: contact@assist-me.services

Kakao ID: Assist-me

What people say about Assist-me assistance



★★★★★
Hatice-Germany

My **1:1 Consultation** with you has brought me such an understanding. I **got my first job** and then using your advice landed many freelancing projects as well.

Thank you so much!

Their Story

Could Become

★★★★★
Kate- Ukraine



Getting into your mentorship was the best decision I have ever made about my career in Korea. Your assistance was really wonderful. **First interview, got and offer followed by “Can you start on Monday?”** Just as you said, they were dying to have me. Your **great offer strategy** really works.

I don't know how to thank you enough!



★★★★★
Alejandra-Mexico

Before taking your **workshop** I was completely lost. I had no idea where and how to start with my job search in Korea but now I have **so much clarity** and feel very **confident** about it.

Thank you!

Your Story

I want to hear from you

If you found this guide helpful then I want you to do **one** of these 2 things:

1. Support the initiative to create more useful content like this



**Support
here**

2. Leave me your impressions about it through a quick review



★★★★★
Name-Country

Your honest review about the guide here...
You don't have to be kind, just share what you think about it. 😊

**Review
here**

Bonus

You can have a 15 min free consultation with me after reading this guide and following the following instructions

1. Register on our website



2. Follow the instructions in your emails



3. Book your free consultation



Disclaimer

This free job search guide is intended for informational purposes only. While we've made every effort to provide accurate and helpful information, we cannot guarantee employment or specific job outcomes. Please note that visa regulations and immigration policies can change frequently and may significantly affect your job search options and eligibility.

Before making any important decisions related to your career or visa status, we strongly recommend consulting with a qualified immigration or legal professional. Use of this guide does not establish a client-mentor relationship unless explicitly agreed upon through a separate mentorship service. Assist-me and its team are not responsible for any decisions made based on the information provided in this guide.



Contact Us

Any time you need assistance with your job search, the Assist-me team will be nearby. Contact us through one of the channels below:



www.assist-me.services



contact@assist-me.services



[@assist.me.korea](https://www.instagram.com/assist.me.korea)



[@c_journey_in_Korea](https://www.youtube.com/c/_journey_in_Korea)



[@assistmekorea](https://www.linkedin.com/company/assistmekorea)



Join 300+ Members on Kakao Talk

Good Luck



Assistme

From Struggle to Job Offer: We Assist You