



Name:

**Naved Altaf**

Country of Origin:

**Pakistan**

Past Employment/Education:

**Sui Southern Gas Company/  
Masters in Information Technology**

London Region Employer & Position:

**LHSC Support Analyst in Quality &  
Performance Department**

Naved Altaf was attracted to London because he was told it is a quiet community, very family oriented and a good place to raise children. He came to visit a brother in 2003 and returned to live here in the spring of 2006.

With 15 years of IT experience, Naved expected it would be easy to get a job. After three months of full-time job searching, unsolicited calls and sending resumes to every IT organization in the area, Naved found a job working as a support analyst at London Health Sciences Centre. He found the job through a posting on Workopolis.com, an employment search and career planning website. The hospital checked his references in Pakistan and offered him a job on contract.

Naved cautions newcomers that although their education and skills may help you to win entrance to Canada, those skills and education do not always help you get a job.

“Prepare yourself to follow a path,” says Naved. “Build a strong, targeted resume and search for the proper audience for your resume. Because most employers want Canadian work experience, you should keep yourself ready for any job the first time – then you can move along from there.”

## How important are English skills to get a job?

The ability to speak English well is one of the most important things that newcomers need to gain employment. Those with strong English skills will become employable much faster than those who have only basic English skills. There are some jobs where English skills are not as important, but they tend to be jobs that will not pay a very high wage. Written English skills are also very important to many employers.

Improving your English skills can take as long as two or more years. You want to get started as quickly as possible and take every opportunity you can to speak English to others.

### Some ways to improve your English

1. Take an English as a Second Language (ESL) course.
2. Go to places where you can speak English. Join a club, a place of worship, a social organization or a conversation circle. Volunteer your time with a charity. Try to spend as much time as possible speaking English.
3. Watch television, listen to the radio and read the newspaper in English. The news is an especially good choice because you will also learn about your new community and your new country.
4. Ask friends and family members to help you if you use an improper word or phrase. Ask them to correct your pronunciation and grammar.