

Tips for post – matric students

You have been at school for 12 years or even longer. By the time you get to matric you feel a sense of achievement. You made it this far!

But then reality dawns. Matric is just the door to the next chapter of your life. You are filled with the realization that you have to earnestly consider what to do next.

And as all South Africans can tell you and people the world over, our new world is not as simple as before. Jobs are scarce. Scarce skills are the in thing. Competition is rife. The economy is shaky. Unemployment is sky high and financial support is hard to find. Above all, matric is considered the most basic of qualifications.

If you are one of the fortunate ones with a good pass, you may be off soon and studying already. You may even know where you may be heading with your qualifications.

You may be one of those who failed one or more matric subjects, or you had a poor pass. Use your time well. Enrol, register and better yourself for a different future. Get up and do what must be done.

Sadly, you may be one of those with qualifications, but it has been almost impossible to find a job. This is a tough place to be because everybody assumes that your qualifications must bring the job to you.

What to do? How to start thinking about your future?

Below some tips:

1. Enrol for short courses as you bide your time from computers to time management, as some examples. Check out in your community if there are any free or small fee charge courses. Enrol and do well and get those certificates.
2. Find work, any work. Build that CV. Work for free if you must. You might find the gentleman at the Old Age Home has a son who has a small business and because you cut his toenails, he recommends you to his son. No work is beneath you. Do exceptional work even if it is house cleaning or babysitting. Ask for references. You never know which one of these employers may be connected such that new doors are opened. Talk about your plight without you sounding like a victim. Network.
3. Study relevant courses. Choose well. Google what the future needs and the markets want. University is not your only option. Think, for example, of becoming an artisan. A plumber will not be without work in the foreseeable future. Research this.
4. Look where the jobs are. You may have to look outside of your town or your province. Or you may have to start in retail with your current qualifications to get ahead. Change that mindset.
5. Write up a professional CV. Make sure your references are current. Be contactable. Check that social media doesn't strangle you job chances. Watch what you post on Facebook.
6. Register with recruitment agencies. Apply. Apply more. Apply even more. Do not give up.
7. Check all kinds of funding from bursaries to loans. Check deadlines and apply where applicable.
8. Check learnerships and internships. These are all over South Africa and in most industries.

9. Watch your stress levels. If, and when you feel overwhelmed, or anxious or you feel in a downward spiral, seek help. Speak to religious leaders, family members or anybody who can listen.
10. Exercise. Pray. Meditate. Try different things. Try different things. This too must and shall end. Just one example to ponder on. A young man I know personally, worked in a dead-end job where none of his qualifications mattered. He was just happy to be employed. He joined a hiking club and one of his fellow hikers encouraged him to complete a teaching certificate online (PGCE). It took him about 18 months while still working at his job. He had never opened his mind to the fact that he had two teaching subjects in his degree. It is 2022 and he just started teaching and he is earning 3 times his old salary with benefits.

Good luck. Become bold and do different things. Nobody can help you look after yourself as best as you can. Start as soon as you have read this. Change your path.

God bless.