

The Podcast – Linda

Listen to Linda, a Finnish professional working for an international development organisation in the UK, talking about her career.

- 1** Which of the following best describes Linda’s work?
- a) She is a researcher.
 - b) She works for a trade union.
 - c) She is employed by the government.

Listen again and answer the following questions.

- 2** Linda talks about the experience and qualifications needed to work in her sector in the past compared with today. Complete the table below with the qualifications and qualities Linda mentions.

Qualifications and qualities	Qualifications and qualities
.....
.....

- 3** Linda mentions her father’s career in international development. Where did he go in the 1980’s? What did he do there and what is he doing now?
- 4** Why did Linda decide to come to the UK? Tick all that apply.
- her boyfriend lived in the UK
 - she wanted to study in London
 - she didn’t like Finland
 - she got an internship in the UK
 - to earn more money
 - because she had already spent time in the UK
 - she thought the experience would help her to get a job in Finland
- 5** Why might Linda decide to move back to Finland eventually?
- 6** Linda describes how she got her current job. How did she get it and how was this different from what she had expected?
- 7** What advice does Linda give to anyone wanting to work in the UK?
- 8** Work with a partner and make a list of five tips for successful networking.
Visit the website <http://www.careerjournal.com/jobhunting/networking/> to see if any of your ideas are listed.



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Teacher's Notes

1 a) She is a researcher.

2 The qualifications and experience mentioned are as follows:

Qualifications and qualities	Qualifications and qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it was enough to be white and have a bit of chutzpah - you needed to go out into the field - you needed to have a desire to help the people of the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masters degree - an idea of what specialisation you are interested in - several years of experience - knowledge of relevant languages

3 Linda's father went to Zambia in the 1980's. He worked as a woodwork teacher and is now a highly paid educational consultant.

4 Linda decided to come to the UK because:

- her boyfriend lived in the UK
- she wanted to study in London
- she wanted to be abroad
- she had already spent time in the UK

Linda studied at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) which is part of the University of London.

5 Linda will move back to Finland when she wants to settle down, have a family and live a quiet life.

6 Linda got her job by applying to directly in response to advert in the paper. This surprised her because she had expected that she would find a job through a combination of networking and being in the right place at the right time.

7 She thinks that it is a good thing to do and would recommend trying it based on the idea that you can always change your mind and do something else if it doesn't work out.

Note on the transcript:

A few unusual words and phrases are underlined in the transcript. Explanations or alternatives given below:

chutzpah	enterprising spirit, daring
has taken off in a big way	has developed a lot
superfluous	like the wrong thing to do, unnecessary
international development pond	international development sector
getting a foot in the Finnish scene	getting a foothold in the Finnish scene



a cul-de-sac

a dead end, place lacking opportunity

