Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network,

Now it is very clear that the summer is over. The weather screams autumn, the leaves on the trees are almost gone and winter time just started. It is time for hygge!

Hygge is as Danish as pork roast and it goes far in illuminating the Danish soul. In essence, hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people.

The warm glow of candlelight is hygge. Friends and family – that’s hygge too. There’s nothing more hyggeligt than sitting round a table, discussing the big and small things in life. Perhaps hygge explains why the Danes are the happiest people in the world?

To prepare yourself for hygge at home, because that is what most Danes associate hygge with, buy plenty of candles, fill your fridge with good quality snacks, invite a lot of friends over and play board games, talk, and relax.

If you don’t feel like hygge at home, on the website of Visitdenmark, you can even find “10 hygge things to do in Copenhagen”.

So there are plenty of things to do and experience, to forget the sometimes miserable rainy weather in Copenhagen 😊.

You are of course also always welcome to visit us in International House - also when there is no event planned - to relax and drink a cup of coffee.

See you soon, that could be very hyggeligt!

Mark de Vos & Mary K. Kobia

The whole world is a series of miracles, but we’re so used to them we call them ordinary things

Hans Christian Andersen
Spotlight: Unsolicited job search. How do you personalise your material?

In Denmark, it’s said that a large percent - about 60-70% of jobs are never listed and usually filled through networking and unsolicited job search. Whether you are looking for your first job, an internship, salary subsidy or changing career paths, the unsolicited job search method is important to know more about.

It’s my experience over the years working as a Career Consultant, that most applicants tend to focus on seeking jobs that are listed. They may be hesitant about approaching employers using the unsolicited method. This means that a majority of job-seekers are likely to apply to the minority of available positions!

Therefore, using the unsolicited approach can be an advantage, because it allows you to stand out before the mass. Normally, when you apply for an advertised position, the posting itself provides you with many hints and details. Since this information is not “severed” to you in the same manner when you apply unsolicited, it’s crucial you obtain this vital information by yourself and by doing your homework on the organisation/company. Here are my best tips to go about it!

Do your research
If you want to acquire more information about the company and the right people, who actually have hiring power, it can be a good idea to scan the employer’s LinkedIn profiles as well as trade publications that are specialised on specific industries.

Following industry news can give you more detailed information about the industry you want to work in. It can also be valuable to use your network to get insights: Maybe you already know someone who works in an interesting position or company and can shed some light on what it takes to get a job there.

Personlise your material!
Use the information from your research to tailor your CV and Cover Letter. Remember to be clear in your arguments on how your skills offer a real added value to the company by giving examples and being specific.

Follow up!
Make sure to follow up. Taking this extra step to reach out shows your motivation and courage as well as strong interest in the specific company.

Show courage and drive
Deciding if an unsolicited application is quite your style is a matter of personal choice. If you know of a company where you would really love to work, it could very well be worth your while to send them an unsolicited application. What do you have to lose?

Join our next Spouse Career Lunch on 15 November at 10:00 in International House! At this interactive workshop we will provide you with ideas on how to personalise your unsolicited material and give you tips on does & don’ts!