

Jackie Bedford

Recruitment and employability specialist

Founder, Get Hired Expert | Founder and CEO, Step Ahead



SHORT BIO (FOR PRESS USE)

Jackie Bedford is a recruitment and employability specialist with more than 30 years on the hiring side of the table. She is founder and CEO of the award-winning company Step Ahead and founder of Get Hired Expert, where she shares what employers really look for with the people trying to get hired.

"Everyone deserves to be doing something they love. That's the belief behind everything I do."

About Jackie

Jackie Bedford has spent more than three decades on the side of recruitment most job seekers never see. She has spent her career recruiting for employers, assessing candidates and helping people secure work, working with hundreds of employers and thousands of jobseekers across the UK.

She founded Step Ahead in 1997 and continues to lead it as CEO. Based in London, Step Ahead is a recruitment, training and employability organisation that helps people into meaningful work and helps organisations build stronger teams. Its recognition includes two consecutive Sunday Times Best Places to Work listings and a Mayor of London Adult Learning Award.

Throughout her career Jackie has seen the same thing again and again: capable people missing out on jobs they could do well, simply because nobody had shown them how hiring actually works. Get Hired Expert is her answer to that.

Through Get Hired Expert, Jackie shares hiring-side knowledge openly through online courses, free resources and a suite of AI tools including the CV Analyser and Job Decoder. Her signature course, *Get The Job You Want*, is an eight-step programme for university students and graduates covering everything from career direction, employer research, CVs, applications, LinkedIn, interviews and evaluating offers, supported by more than 40 practical worksheets.

Jackie is known for a direct, warm and practical style. She understands what employers look for and why capable people get overlooked. She helps people recognise their strengths, demonstrate their value to employers and approach applications and interviews with confidence, building skills for every career move - being honest about the realities of today's market.

Her current focus is students and graduates, along with the parents helping a son or daughter into work. Courses for career changers, people returning after a break and job seekers aged over 50 are in the pipeline.



GET THE JOB YOU WANT | WHAT COURSE MEMBERS SAY

100%

rated the teaching clarity very good or excellent

100%

felt more confident writing an effective CV

50%+

secured a role they wanted within 8 weeks of completing

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

What Jackie covers

- Graduate employability and the graduate job market
- Career direction, employer research
- CVs/ résumés and job applications
- Interview preparation and technique
- LinkedIn and professional presence
- Recruitment and hiring strategy
- Career change and returning to work
- Workforce development and training

RECOGNITION

Awards and credentials

- 30+ years in recruitment and employability
- Founder and CEO, Step Ahead Social Enterprise CIC
- Step Ahead: Mayor of London Inspirational Professional in Adult Education, 2025
- Step Ahead: Sunday Times Best Places to Work 2025 and 2026
- Step Ahead: KCW Business Awards, Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion at the 2026
- Step Ahead: KCW Business Awards, Outstanding Team 2025
- Step Ahead: National Training Award winner, Best Business Practice

TALKING POINTS

Story angles for press

- How to work out what an employer needs and demonstrate you can deliver
- Why capable graduates get overlooked and how they can strengthen their chances
- How parents can support a job search without taking over
- Getting hired over 50: making your experience relevant to your next role
- Returning to work after a career break: recognising and communicating your strengths
- How AI can help your job search and where it can undermine you



MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Interviews, comment and speaking

Contact: info@jackiebedford.com

Web: jackiebedford.com | grads.gethiredexpert.com

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/jackie-bedford-263jb](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jackie-bedford-263jb)

Instagram: [@jackie_bedford_](https://www.instagram.com/jackie_bedford_)

**High-resolution images available on request.*