1.1 Ten Tips to Land a Startup Job

1. **Start within arm’s reach.**
   Products and services that you already use, know, and love are great places to begin your application process. The ability to have a knowledgeable conversation about a company’s offerings is a sure-fire attention-grabber.

2. **Skip the blind dates.**
   Really, really do your homework on each company before meeting or applying for a job with them. Scour their websites, blogs, social media presences, and articles written about them (or by their team members). This is much more important at startups than at large companies.

3. **Don’t forget to tip.**
   Now that you’re well-versed on both the company and its offerings, come up with one great suggestion for how they can improve, or one new feature you would add. Startups love this.

4. **Link outside the box.**
   Building your digital presence through Twitter, blogging, Instagram, Quora, and industry-specific centers like GitHub (in addition to LinkedIn and Facebook) is mandatory at this point. Blogging offers an outlet for your interests, thoughts, and writing; Quora exhibits your knowledge by allowing you to answer others’ questions (or ask your own); and GitHub connects developers for open source projects. Start now—even a little can yield a big return.

5. **Talk to strangers.**
   Involve yourself in local, professional communities through Meetups for entrepreneurs, startup enthusiasts, coders, designers, and others in your field of interest. Reach out to companies and professionals directly for coffee meetings and informational interviews. In no time, you’ll have a budding network in the startup space.

6. **Take one a day.**
   Make it a goal and personal challenge to reach out to at least one new person or company each day. Through friends, professional connections, and referrals, your network will grow exponentially, opening doors to new professional opportunities.

7. **Stack the deck.**
   You don’t need a job to have business cards. Click here to learn how to stand out amid the currency exchange of networking known as “card swapping.”

8. **Do it yourself.**
   Bulk up your résumé, skills, network, and confidence beyond internships and the classroom. Freelance work, passion projects, volunteering, competitions, and classes are all great ways.

9. **Bookmark these pages!**
   The search continues for the holy grail of an updated and highly curated startup job board for all fields. In the meantime, we recommend exploring the following:
   * Developers/Tech - Careers 2.0, GitHub, Dice, Hacker News
   * Design - Behance, Coroflot, Dribbble, AIGA
   * General - Mashable, VentureLoop, Startuply, and—of course—Wakefield.
   ... and don’t forget companies’ own websites, job boards, LinkedIn pages, Twitter profiles, and Facebook pages.
Ditch the tie; perfect your ping pong serve.
The clichés of startup life are clichés for a reason. Scrap the corporate culture and dress code, and understand there’s a new sheriff in these here parts: one who wears jeans, T-shirts, and rolls into the office some time between 9 AM and noon (offset by hours that can run late into the evening, of course).