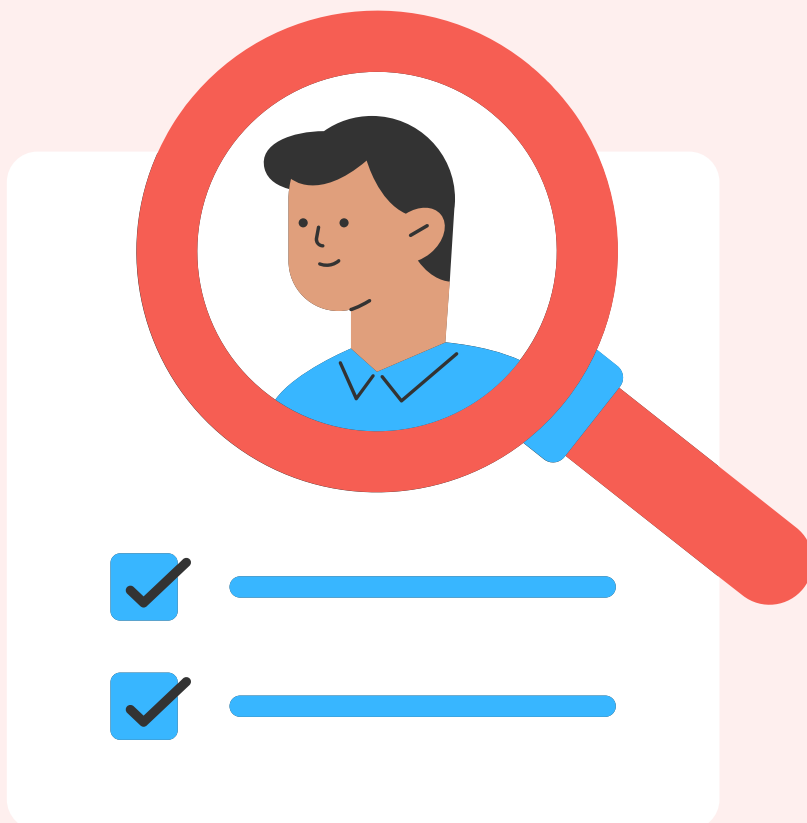


The Ultimate Recruitment Checklist

A step-by-step guide to setup your hiring process and secure top talent for long term success



Why Do You Need a Recruitment Checklist?

Hiring the right talent is one of the most important decisions an organization can make. A strong hire can elevate a team, drive innovation, and contribute to long-term growth. On the other hand, a poor hire can lead to lost productivity, increased turnover, and cultural misalignment—all of which are costly and time-consuming to fix.

Common Pitfalls in the Recruitment Process

Despite the best intentions, even seasoned HR professionals can fall into common traps—rushed job postings, unclear requirements, inconsistent interviewing, or missing crucial steps during selection. These issues not only delay hiring but also increase the risk of hiring the wrong candidate.



How a Checklist Helps Save Time and Improve Results

A well-structured checklist provides consistency, ensures compliance, and keeps everyone aligned throughout the process. It acts as a guide that HR teams can rely on to make sure every step—no matter how small—is handled with care.

In this e-book, we'll walk you through each stage of the recruitment process—from preparation to onboarding—with practical checklists and tips you can use immediately.

Whether you're building a recruitment framework from scratch or just looking to tighten up your current process, this guide is here to help.



Pre-Recruitment Preparation

Before you post a job or start reviewing resumes, solid prep work sets the foundation for a smooth and effective hiring process. Skipping this phase often leads to delays, mismatches, and confusion later on.

Define the Hiring Need

Start by understanding why you're hiring. Is it to backfill a role? Support growth? Add a new function? Clearly define what success looks like in this position, and make sure the team is aligned on priorities.

Checklist:

- ☐ Clarify the business need
- ☐ Identify key responsibilities
- ☐ Define success metrics for the role

Update or Create a Clear Job Description

A job description isn't just an internal document—it's your pitch to potential candidates. Make it accurate, inclusive, and engaging.

Checklist:

- ☐ List essential duties and expectations
 - ☐ Include must-have and nice-to-have skills
 - ☐ Highlight your company culture and values
-

Align With Stakeholders

Coordinate with hiring managers and team members involved in the process. Align early to avoid back-and-forth during the critical stages.

Checklist:

- ☐ Review the job description with stakeholders
- ☐ Confirm budget and approval for the hire
- ☐ Assign roles for each step of the process

Set a Realistic Timeline

Map out your estimated timeline from posting to onboarding. Setting expectations early helps avoid delays and improves candidate experience.

Checklist:

- ☐ Set internal deadlines for sourcing, interviews, and selection
- ☐ Block time for interviews
- ☐ Plan for contingencies (e.g., backup interviewers, holidays)



Sourcing Candidates

Finding the right talent starts with looking in the right places—and saying the right things.

1. Choose Channels That Fit the Role

Not all platforms work for all positions. Tech roles might thrive on LinkedIn or GitHub, while hourly positions may get more traction on job boards or local networks.

Pro Tip:

Use data from past hires to see where your most successful candidates came from—and prioritize those channels.

2. Write Like a Human, Not a Robot

Your job ad is your first impression. Candidates scroll past generic copy. Use friendly, clear language that reflects your company's voice.

Pro Tip:

Include 2–3 lines about what makes your team or culture unique. Avoid corporate jargon like “rockstar” or “guru.”



✓ Do's and ✗ Don'ts of Candidate Sourcing

Finding the right talent starts with looking in the right places—and saying the right things.



- ✓ Use inclusive language to attract a diverse pool
- ✓ Ask current employees to share the listing
- ✓ Tap into niche communities or industry-specific job boards
- ✓ Leverage internal referrals (they're often your best hires)



- ✗ Copy-paste old job ads without reviewing them
- ✗ Limit outreach to just one or two platforms
- ✗ Ignore passive candidates—some of the best aren't actively looking

Leverage Your Employer Brand

Candidates are researching you before applying. Make sure your online presence shows who you are.

Things to do:

- Refresh your careers page with authentic team photos and values
- Encourage employees to share their work experiences on LinkedIn or Glassdoor
- Highlight DEI efforts, work-life balance, and development opportunities

Sourcing Checklist Snapshot

- ☐ Identify the best platforms for this role
 - ☐ Post engaging, inclusive job listings
 - ☐ Activate employee referral networks
 - ☐ Monitor applications and adjust sourcing as needed
 - ☐ Respond promptly to promising applicants
-

Screening | Interviewing



Screen Smart

Use a checklist to review resumes for key experience, skills, and potential red flags. Follow up with a short, structured phone screen to assess interest, communication, and fit.



Shortlist Intentionally

Only progress candidates who meet core role criteria and align with company values. Avoid bloating your interview pipeline—it wastes time and lowers quality.



Structure Interviews

Plan questions in advance for consistency and fairness. Mix technical, situational, and behavioral questions. Score each answer to reduce bias.



Prep Your Interview Team

Brief each interviewer on the candidate, their role in the process, and what they should assess.

1

Resume + phone screen complete

2

Interview plan prepared

3

Scoring method in place

4

Interviewers aligned and ready

Selection and Offer



Final Checks

Conduct final assessments or references if needed. Keep them quick and relevant to the role.



Get Offer Approval

Align with HR, finance, or leadership on salary, benefits, start date, and role details.



Make the Offer Count

Call your top candidate before sending the offer email. Share the good news warmly and walk them through key details.



Follow Up Promptly

Give a deadline for acceptance, answer any questions, and show excitement about them joining.

1

Final steps complete (tests, references)

2

Internal offer approvals done

3

Offer call + written offer sent

4

Deadline and contact shared

Onboarding Preparation



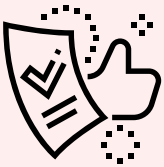
Communicate Early

Send a warm welcome email with their start date, reporting manager, and Day 1 schedule. This builds trust and reduces anxiety.



Set Up Tools

Ensure laptop, email, tools, and software are ready before Day 1. Coordinate with IT early.



Complete Docs

Send contracts, payroll, ID forms, and any pre-boarding surveys in advance to save time later.



Make It Welcoming

Assign a buddy, set up intro meetings, and if possible, send a welcome kit or swag item.

1

Welcome email + agenda shared

2

Tools and logins set up

3

Documents sent and signed
use Runtime HRMS

4

Team intro or buddy assigned



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