



Career Mapper

Defy expectations



Defy expectations

Do you feel like your skills would be better suited to another industry? Like you want to change career path but don't have the qualifications you need to unleash your potential? You aren't alone — we spend most of our lives at work, but many people feel like they don't have control over their career.

That's why we've created Career Mapper, a one-stop-shop designed to help you shape your thoughts and ideas about work into a series of simple steps with a realistic timescale for action.

Designed for anyone short of time who wants a structured approach to career planning, our Career Mapper poses the essential questions to answer if you're looking to progress in the world of work.

You'll be asked to consider your existing skills, values, and experience, before giving shape and structure — including additional learning — to your plan.

At FutureLearn, we can help you unlock new opportunities with access to hundreds of online short courses and microcredentials, all the way up to degree-level qualifications in a huge range of subjects.

Whether you're seeking promotion, a career change, or returning to work, it's time to take stock of where you are right now.

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Where are you now?

It's time to self-evaluate. The prompts below are designed to help you consider where your strengths lie, what you enjoy doing in the workplace (as well as what you don't like doing), and the things that inspire and motivate you.

Don't rush, give this the time and careful consideration your career deserves. Think about where you are now and where you see yourself in the future. Some of these questions might seem obvious, but you might not necessarily ask yourself them on a regular basis. You might even discover something new about yourself.

Consider your aspirations, your lifestyle, any personal obstacles, and your current circumstances. Do you have childcare commitments or a second job? Do you volunteer? Do you have the free time to commit to additional learning?

And then there are the 'bigger' questions: do you feel emotionally fulfilled and satisfied? Does something in your life need to change?

We've broken it down into three categories:

Work

- Are you inspired by your current job?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
- Does your job utilise your strengths?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Somewhat

1

2

3

4

5

6



Where are you now?

- Do you feel valued at work?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
- Can you deal with the stress levels in your current job?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes

Not many of us are able to combine our job with the things we're really passionate about, that's probably the holy grail of work! Find a balance and you're definitely heading in the right direction.

It's also important to feel like your efforts are valued and you're good at your job. That you're not only making a contribution but also making a difference. These are the building blocks of your sense of professional self-worth.



Where are you now?

Life

- Do you feel in control of your life?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Somewhat
- Do you see family and friends as much as you would like?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you have enough time to relax, exercise and eat healthily?
 - Yes
 - No
- If money wasn't a barrier, what would you like to do with your life?

1

2

3

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6



Where are you now?

Needs

- What motivates you?

- What are your priorities?

- What kind of work would you like to do?



Where are you now?

Needs

- What is important to you in your work and life?
Do you crave excitement or like peace and quiet? Do you enjoy being creative or are you more practical?

- What's your preferred work environment?
Do you prefer the office or the outdoors? Working in teams or working alone?

Think about what matters to you and what makes you happy. Do you have dependants or need to look after someone? Do you have a time-consuming hobby or interest outside of work? Does work/life balance matter to you? These are big questions, so give them some serious thought!

Our working environment can have a huge impact on our quality of life. If we like our environment, we're often more efficient and proactive. We're frequently happier too. Think about places you've worked in the past and how they've made you feel.



How do you get there?

Let's draw up a strategy to hit your career goals. We can do that by identifying the tasks you need to do to get there and then breaking them down into achievable, practical steps.

- What would you like to do?
eg nutritionist, data scientist, cyber security expert?

- What are the requirements to do it?
Extra training, working towards a qualification or gaining practical experience?
If you're looking for inspiration, check out our career pages at [URL](#), and make a list of the courses that interest you.



What's the plan?

- When will that step end?

What's the next step?

- How can you achieve it?

- When will that begin?



What's the plan?

- When will that step end?

What's the next step after that?

- How can you achieve it?

- When will that begin?



What's the plan?

- When will that step end?

Keep going until each step is laid out bit by bit, so you can see exactly what you need to do to get to where you want to go.



What's the plan?

A few things to remember:

- Are your goals realistic? If not, they'll be hard to achieve.
- Be honest with yourself. Goals need to be clearly defined and feasible.
- Make lists and use reminders. Ticking off tasks can create a real sense of progress.
- Sign up to email alerts from potential employers and follow them on social media. Don't forget to check FutureLearn's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts for info on the latest courses in your area of interest.
- Talk to friends, family members, colleagues, a career coach or mentor. Getting different perspectives can be really useful in terms of staying focused and solving problems.
- Our [career advice](#) pages are a really useful way to discover more about your dream job. Whether you want to be a nurse, data scientist, or nutritionist, we've got all the details you need to get you on the right track.
- If you get stuck and you're not sure where to go next, try brainstorming. Write down everything that comes to mind in relation to your goal. Don't feel embarrassed if it sounds silly — you might come up with something that breaks the deadlock.



Time for a review

Life can get in the way of even the best-laid plans. Your personal situation can change, so a regular review of your career plan is useful. Your goals and timeframes might occasionally need to shift. Try to stay flexible and keep an eye on your step-by-step strategy, making sure it remains relevant to where you're at right now. You might even need to add new goals or steps as time goes by.

You might make mistakes or suffer some setbacks — that's normal. Use the experience to learn, revise your plan, and move on.

It's also important to keep up-to-date with what's happening in your dream industry. New legislation or a shift in the way the sector operates could have a knock-on effect on your plan.



The next step

Hopefully this process has helped you create some career clarity. To achieve your goals you might need to do some extra learning or gain extra qualifications.

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