Employability Level 2 – Choosing a Career

1 of 13 – Welcome

During this session you will look at an introduction to the following topics:

* Choosing a career
* Job profiles
* Help available

Choosing a career can be difficult, there are so many choices. You may already know what you want to do or you may still be deciding. Either way, this session will help you find out more about it.

2 of 13 – Introduction

You may be looking for your first job or wanting to change. There are a number of things you can do that can help you make the best decision.

Whatever your situation, make sure you research your chosen job – and make sure you know as much as you can about what the job's really like and if it's the right job for you.

3 of 13 – Your career plan

By thinking about your career plan, it will help you to get the most out of your working life. Throughout your career you may change directions or focus on other areas.

What is it that you would really like to do in your working life?

Think about these to get you started:

* What are your ambitions for your working life?
* What skills and experience do you already have?
* Is there anything else you need to learn?
* What about volunteering to gain valuable experience?
* How are you going to get to where you want to be?

4 of 13 – Dreams

Before you choose your career path, what is it that you most want from life?

* A luxury car?
* A high paying job?
* An expensive house?
* A family?

5 of 13 – Dreams (continued)

What will make you happy? Working long hours in a high-pressure job may not get you the dream you were looking for.

Think about:

* What it is you really want?
* What will make you happy?
* What does success mean to you?

The biggest mistake most people make when they choose a career path is that they sometimes just focus on survival needs (i.e. money). You need to take the time to think about the lifestyle that you want to live.

6 of 13 – How will you choose?

It will take time, planning and thought for you to carefully consider what is the right job for you. Here are some ways which will help you choose:

**Interests**

Thinking about what you would like to do if you had the chance may give you a clue. As an example, if you would like to travel the world, you could consider becoming an airline steward or stewardess.

**Hobbies**

Sometimes it can be easy to turn your hobby or something you really enjoy doing into your career. As an example, if you enjoy video games you could consider becoming a programmer or games designer.

**Education**

What do you most enjoy at college? As an example, if your favourite subject is English, you could consider becoming an editor or a writer. For chemistry, you could consider being a pharmacist or lab technician.

**Strengths**

What are your strengths? What are you good at? Are you good at cooking, or repairing things? These can easily be turned into careers.

7 of 13 – Other considerations

With so many things to consider, here some things to think about before you look at your career choice:

* Skills – What are you like at problem solving? Teamwork? Computers?
* Interests – Are you creative? Social? Do you prefer being outdoors?
* Motivation – Work life balance? Security? Money?
* Personality – Determined? Cautious? Outgoing or calm?

8 of 13 – Job profiles

Job profiles give you a description of a job, but they also give you other useful information:

* Main duties of the job
* Working hours and conditions
* Salary ranges
* What skills or qualifications you will need
* Further opportunities for progression

9 of 13 – Task

Visit the National Careers Service website below and try looking at some job profiles:

[National Careers Service](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/)

Carry out research on either a career you are already considering, or something that you are interested in.

Download the **Job Profile Research Activity PDF** to help you make notes on at least **two different job profiles**. You can save as many versions as you need based on what you find.

Using these types of career tools will help get you off to a good start. You may wish to revisit job profiles at a later date as it would also help you with career progression.

10 of 13 – Need advice or help?

You may need to get some advice from a professional – there might be other options, or funding schemes open to you that you didn't know about.

It often helps to have someone impartial that you can talk to, to check if you are doing the right thing. You can receive help from:

* A college career advisor
* The internet, using career tools and websites
* Independent career advisors
* Job fairs in your local area

11 of 13 – Top tips

Here are some top tips to help you keep focused:

* Most people need time to decide on a career path, as the majority of us don’t know what’s right for us – take your time, don’t feel under pressure.
* If you are unhappy with the direction you are going in, change it. This may mean more study or work, but it will be worth it in the end.
* Don’t worry if you ‘fall’ into a job that you may not have chosen as a career. If you are happy and enjoy it, it doesn’t matter if it’s not your dream job.
* Listen to your heart, you know yourself better than anyone else.

12 of 13 – End

Well done. You have completed this session.

During this session you have looked at:

* Choosing a career
* Job profiles
* Help available

Make sure you carefully research whatever career path you decide to take.

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.