



**Choosing a career is a big and exciting decision. To help you choose the best one for you, there are a number of things you'll need to explore.**

- **What are you like?** Think about your likes and dislikes, favourites subjects, hobbies and interests.
- **What do particular jobs involve?** Find out the skills, experience and qualifications you may need.
- **What's happening locally with jobs?** Is what you want to do available locally or will you have to move away?

**The world of work is changing.** Employers tend to look for people with higher-level skills and qualifications. This is especially true in industries where competition for jobs is fierce.

To give yourself the best chance of finding and staying in work, you need to carry on learning and developing your skills throughout your working life. Staying in education or choosing a job with training will give you better prospects in the long-term.

Also, people with higher skills and qualifications will find it easier to move from job to job. Research also shows that people with qualifications usually earn more money than those without.

Deciding what you want to do can take a lot of time – and a lot of changes of mind. Don't worry

– this is quite normal. Your Connexions Personal Adviser is there to help you think everything through and use the information resources in school or at the Connexions Centre.

## What are you like?

You can start building a picture of yourself by making a list on a piece of paper of your:

- **Likes and dislikes**
- **Favourites subjects**
- **Hobbies and interests.**

Show it to friends and family. Do they agree with you? Is there anything you've missed off?

There are some great computer-based resources in schools, colleges and Connexions Centres you could try too:

- **Plan-it** – this online system helps you complete an Individual Learning Plan so you can think about
- **Where you are now**
- **Where you want to go**
- **How you are going to get there.**

Plan-it helps you, your tutors and Connexions Personal Adviser ensure you keep on the right track to realise your career dreams.  
[www.myplan4life.org](http://www.myplan4life.org)

- **Kudos** – a software program that helps you look at yourself in relation to the world of work.
- **Careerscape** – a software program that helps you develop career choices.

- **Jobs4u database** – search for career ideas by selecting interests, subjects, qualifications and where you want to work. The results will get you thinking.  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)

These booklets and websites are also useful:

- **Which Way Now?** – great for Year 9 subject choices.  
[www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow](http://www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow)
- **It's Your Choice** – use this when considering your post-16 choices  
[www.connexions-direct.com/itsyourchoice](http://www.connexions-direct.com/itsyourchoice)

## What do particular jobs involve?

Knowing the following will be really important:

- **What exactly does the job involve? Think about the good and not so good parts.**
- **What sort of personal qualities are needed?**
- **What qualifications will be needed?**
- **What additional education or training is recommended?**
- **Are there any age restrictions?**
- **Does the work happen in an environment you would enjoy?**

This knowledge will help you choose a career that is really going to suit you. And will help you decide the best subjects to take and what sort of further and higher education and training you will need to plan ahead for.

There are lots of paper and computer-based resources in your school careers library to help you explore hundreds of different careers. Your Connexions Personal Adviser can help

recommend some to suit you. Try these:

- **Jobs4u** – hundreds of job profiles.  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)
- **Working in...booklets** – real case studies of people saying what it's like to do their job.  
[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) go to Careers>Careers Resources>Download Publications>Working In

## What's happening locally?

City centre regeneration, out of town retail and business parks, coastal redevelopments – these all mean new and exciting job prospects. Make sure you're ready with the right skills. Ask your Connexions Personal Adviser for a copy of 'Work Matters' or get it from your careers library or Connexions Centre.

There is lots of information about what's happening locally on the Connexions website.  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)

## Other things to consider

- **Aimhigher** – find out more about going to university. [www.aimhigher.ac.uk/dontstop](http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/dontstop)
- **Shell LiveWIRE** – help for 16-30 year olds to start and develop their own business.  
[www.shell-livewire.org](http://www.shell-livewire.org)
- **Money to study and train** – ask for the 'Money' leaflet.

## Connexions Centres in the West of England

### Bath and North East Somerset

28 Southgate, Bath BA1 1TP  
T: 01225 461 501

### Bristol

4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST  
T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514

### North Somerset

45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG  
T: 01934 644443

### South Gloucestershire

21-23 High Street, Kingswood,  
South Gloucestershire BS15 4AA  
T: 0117 961 2760

28-30 Gloucester Road North, Filton,  
South Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ  
T: 0117 969 8101

Connexions Centres are open Monday – Friday.  
Please contact for opening times.

[enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)

- **1Big Database** – [www.1bigdatabase.org.uk](http://www.1bigdatabase.org.uk)  
Online directory of services, organisations and groups for people in Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
- **MyPlan4Life** – [www.myplan4life.org](http://www.myplan4life.org)  
Provides young people with information they can use to make informed decisions about where they are now and where they want to go.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

# Careers



Exploring careers and finding the right one for you