

Are you in the Right Career?

Every day we get queries from people who are wondering “What do I want to be and am I in the right career now?”

We all have a tendency to ask these questions every few years as our working career develops; And though most of us ask the questions, there are many of us who have not yet really identified their true career calling. Too often we get caught up in our careers and travel serendipitously through 30 plus years of a working life.

Many people pick a first job out of school or college and then for one reason or another end up staying in that industry for years without ever really thinking about whether they want to be there in the first place. We even hear from people who, years later, would consider themselves “stuck” in that career path.

We know from experience that no one is ever “stuck” though they may need to make some changes to get where they want to go. So, to get you started, we have put some handy hints together on what you should be thinking about when considering whether you are in the right career.

As you know, there are many influences in your life that contribute to the decisions you make in your career. When considering a career change, the first area you need to identify is “Where am I right now as an individual?” This is you looking at yourself from the broader circumstances and correctly identifying all the current influencing facets of your life.

So, have a think about the below and write down some notes and thoughts that spring to mind when answering the below questions.

Who are you as an individual?

Let’s start by looking internally.

This includes your knowledge (career and other areas of knowledge), skills, interests your personality, age and health status. Write all of this down.

Is this what you want to see? What areas are going well? What areas are holding you back? Why are these areas holding you back? Make sure when answering these questions that you focus on internal influence and do not look at the external reasons just yet.

What is your current community situation?

This refers to the social and people aspects of your life. These are more the external influencers. This plays an important role in forming your identity, beliefs, values and attitudes. This can influence the lifestyle you want to aspire towards, the work you choose and how you value yourself. Again, write it all down.

What is your environment? – This refers to opportunities or constraints caused by factors such as location you live in, what is happening in the employment market your socioeconomic status eg do you have to consider mortgages, children’s education etc

Now go back and review what you have written. All of this should give you a very good idea of where things are at for you as an individual.

Now that you have identified you, lets move on to considering the career aspect of your life.

Career development is a lifelong process that is unique for every individual.

To achieve satisfaction in your career outcome, you have to be persistently strategic in your career building efforts.

Career planning starts with you. Regular self-assessments are the foundation of your career success. As you work and learn, you grow and evolve through every transition and experience; every success and failure. Self-assessments are regimens for taking inventory of your career, getting in touch with your head and heart, and projecting yourself into the future. **We are masters of our own fate.**

- 1) Who am I? What are my strengths? My needs? My limitations? What is my basic temperament? How do I define success? Who are my role models?
- 2) Where am I? How would I describe my career today? Do I like where I am? Am I beginning, mid-way or winding down? Am I at the top of my game or restless, bored or unchallenged? Am I where I thought I'd be at this point?
- 3) What are my recent successes? When was my last opportunity to shine? Am I proud of my achievements to date?
- 4) What more do I want? What is my true passion? What would I do if I knew I could not fail? What new dreams do I have? What goals / dreams have I deferred, delayed? Do I have regrets? What would make me fulfilled?
- 5) Can I achieve it? Are my goals realistic or pipe dreams? Are they ambitious or safe? Are they my goals or others?

All of this self questioning should open up many areas for thought and development. Honest answers to the above will give you the template you need to know whether you are in the right career or at least moving towards that career.

So the next step? What do you need to do to get all of the above moving?

Focus on your next career move now

Beyond self-assessments, it is important that you focus your energies on the next career move. **Ambition will get you nowhere unless you are willing to act.** Figure out what your next move should be. Identify a couple of different options that help you progress. Look for these opportunities within and outside your company, make your desires and interests known to as many people as you can. If the opportunities don't arise, look for ways to gain similar experience through lateral moves, secondments or projects. Strengthen your readiness for the next move and demonstrate your capability for it. Hold yourself accountable for completing tasks set within a designated timeframe. Push yourself and look forward. By looking forward you will start moving forward and that forward movement will bring you towards a brighter, more fulfilling and happier future and career.

Stay ahead

CPG | Connecting Executives worldwide

We live in a world where continuous change is constant. To stay ahead of the rest, assume change will occur exponentially throughout your career. You need to anticipate change and be prepared for it. Read constantly to stay attuned to emerging industry and job trends. Stay competitive by learning cutting edge skills. Become adept at flexing your skills, goals and plans to meet emerging needs.

Get Networking

Networks are fuel for success. Cultivating strong networks will provide access to resources of every kind. People in your networks can offer direct assistance, connection with others, perspectives, information and support. The long-term relationships that you build are invaluable – you get to know many and many know you!

If you know someone else who is faced with the above problem then please pass this article on to them. They will appreciate it.

This article had been written and brought to you by CPG Executive

CPG Executive Consulting

People are the building blocks of any organisation and CPG Executive prides itself on finding the best talent to the benefit of the individual and the growth of the business. With nearly 40 years of experience in global and local markets, we have a rich heritage in recruitment, headhunting, professional training and career development.

We understand the needs of our clients and have built outstanding international and local business networks. Our approach is fresh, modern and tailored. We integrate our consultants with our clients and continue to develop these relationships for the long term. We operate across the EU, USA and Australasia.

CPG Executive has over 20 years experience offering guidance and advice for small, medium and large companies and to individuals at all career levels across Europe.

We ensure that our clients receive superior support and training to ensure they achieve their development goals. We plan, consult and conduct in depth research for every assignment, adapting to the needs of the clients. We are expert communicators and deliver the results.

Professional Training

CPG Executives Programmes are designed to help you boost self-confidence, and up-skill on core business competencies. We help you create and transform opportunities for continued professional development.

Today's market place is in constant change. In order to continue to move forward in your career the right business skills and know-how are imperative.

CPG Executive provides Career Change Services to Individuals which include:

CPG | Connecting Executives w o r l d w i d e

- Career Advice
- Career Change Management
- Job search and Job Marketing Skills
- 1 to 1 Coaching
- CV Writing
- Job Interview Skills
- Presentation Skills
- Psychometric Testing

We have established ourselves as a value added integral Human Resource Partner and essential Career Advice Consultants to meet the exact needs of individuals

Today we have offices globally and our staff are all experts in their field. Many have been recruiters and HR professionals for years while others come from the industry sectors they specialise in. All of our consultants have international experience and first-hand knowledge of the needs of local and international organisations, no matter what their stage of growth.

Partnering with you to manage change, CPG Executive has developed key services for organisations which include:

- Human Resource Department Management
- Redundancy / outplacement
- Recruitment Campaign Management
- Executive Search
- Career Advice and Career Management
- Psychometric Testing
- Professional Business Skills training
- Group Training Workshops

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