

CAREER CHOICE

At any stage in life, there are several questions that we should be asking ourselves when thinking of starting, developing or managing your career.

- What are my main abilities?
- How can I assess myself?
- What is the range of options open to me?
- What do specific jobs involve and what are the skills necessary to perform them?
- How do I make a decision?

The process of making a career choice is similar to the process of completing a jigsaw puzzle without knowing the picture you are trying to make! So, how do you start to create this picture? To do this, you will need to:

- Assess yourself – what experience do you have? What are your priorities, abilities, values, interests, temperament, and needs?
- Develop some idea of aims and priorities.
- Take note of any constraints e.g. health, location, finance.
- Find out about the range of options available, and what they involve. This will include looking at jobs, under/post-graduate study, professional training, voluntary work, self-employment and taking time out.
- Decide which you want to aim for. Remember, you have more than one choice.
- Find out about sources of vacancies and how to apply- look at the hidden job market - 80% of jobs are not actually advertised but you can learn the skills in networking.
- Fill in application forms and attend interviews.

Your initial choice does not commit you forever more, although some moves can be more difficult with time. Increasingly, these days, the concept of job for life has been replaced by people aware that they may be taking contracts and having several employers in their lifetime.