

Creating a career plan

This is a good time of year to take stock of your career, and start planning a long-term strategy

As a part qualified accountant, you have already taken your first steps towards a career in finance. So where next? When planning your future, it's important to take your long-term goals and ambitions into account. A career plan will help you to stay focused on what you really want and make sure that you are developing the right skills and experience to get you there. Here are some key questions to help you create your career plan.

What motivates me? Think about your personality and values. Are you motivated by fast career progression and financial rewards? Is a friendly working environment where you can socialise with your colleagues important to you? Do you want to work for a prestigious firm? Or is it the nature of the work that you do day to day that is most important to you? The obvious answer is that all of these things are important to most people. Unfortunately, the perfect role that combines all



of these factors in equal measure does not exist. Draw on your experiences so far to help you prioritise. Decide what is an 'absolute must' for you to be happy in your job and what is merely a 'nice to have'.

What are my strengths and weaknesses? Ask for honest feedback from the people who know you best. Ask your tutors, colleagues and your employer. Look for areas of consistency and any themes that stand out.

What are my long-term goals? Once you have decided what motivates you, start to think about where you want to be and what you want to achieve in your career. Setting goals is key to success. Begin by thinking long term. What is your ideal job? Would you like to be the CFO of a major company? Is fitting work in around other commitments like family or study important to you?

Would you like to travel internationally or spend your career in one place? This is the rest of your life, so don't be afraid to think big!

What steps do I need to take to reach my goals? Once you have a goal to work towards,

you can start to work out what steps you need to take in order to get there. Completing your studies is an obvious first step! Ask yourself the following questions to help break down your goals into smaller, more manageable milestones for your career plan:

- What do I want to achieve within the next six, 12, 18 months?
- How and when will I achieve my training and educational goals?
- How and when will I gain the additional skills and experience I need?
- How can I expand my network, and by when?

Once you have established your goals and how to achieve them, you should have a clear path to follow.

Remember, your local Page Personnel Finance consultant will be happy to advise you on the best roles to give you the experience you need to achieve your goals. **PQ**



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For more advice on deciding whether a particular role will suit you, speak to your

Page Personnel Finance recruitment consultant. You can join the LinkedIn group, Page Personnel Finance – UK, to discuss more hints and tips to help you get the most from your career.