

Goal setting and career planning

Planning a perfectly exact career path is impossible, because the world of work is constantly changing and even your personal life situation changes in ways which are not always predictable. Therefore, career planning is not about making a solid decision for all times for a specific professional path, it is rather an ongoing process of adapting to unexpected opportunities or external factors.

Nevertheless, it is important to be clear about one's career goals and to formulate possible steps to achieve these goals. This will help in the implementation of personal wishes and promote motivation and perseverance.

Consider the following points:

- What is your overarching career goal? If everything goes the way you want, where would you like to be professionally in 5-10 years?
- What are smaller, concrete milestones or intermediate steps to achieve this goal? What would you need to have to achieve this?
- Are there alternative ways, which could help you reach your goal? Try at least two possible ways to determine your main career goal.
- What resources and assistance are available for potential support in reaching your goals? Resources include work colleagues, fellow students, family, friends, private contacts and networks, financial resources, personal settings (e.g., motivation, perseverance, labour) and subject-based knowledge / processing skills.
- What are the possible obstacles or difficulties you may face on the way to achieving these goals?
- How could these obstacles / difficulties be bypassed, avoided, or mitigated? How would you react if this obstacle / this difficulty reappeared? What would be a reasonable / constructive response? What resources could be used to avoid this obstacle or mitigate its effects?