



Wanted: A Job for Me!

A self-help tool

Introduction

Wanted: a Job for Me is a great way to get loads of career ideas that are shaped around you, and get your family and friends constructively involved at the same time.

It takes the idea of an old-fashioned 'wanted' poster and turns it on its head. Your task is to create a poster about the sort of person you are and send it to selected people requesting that they suggest careers they think would be good for you.

The idea comes from a workshop programme run by the School of Life which specialises in helping people find fulfilling work (Kraznaric, 2012, p. 67).

This tool is designed to...

- Get people friends and family to help kick start your thinking.
- Take some of the effort out of career planning by bringing others onboard.
- Be a fun and creative way of generating ideas.

Consider using this tool if you...

- You need to create a list of possible career ideas to start your career thinking.
- Want fresh perspectives to challenge your existing ideas and open up new possibilities.
- You feel more comfortable with creative approaches to career planning that favour

How to use this tool

First, create your poster

It should have:

- The title: "Wanted: a Job For [Your Name]"
- A photo of yourself
- Words / images / symbols / pictures / photos etc which express your values, interests, hobbies, skills, qualifications, priorities, dreams and personality.
- Any other information that will affect your plans (e.g. which part of the country you want to live in, family commitments, life style aims).

However, you must NOT indicate the careers you might interested in, as obviously this will limit the ideas you get back.

Make your poster interesting and expressive of your personality and individuality. Don't worry about the 'artistic' merits. While it has a serious purpose, it's supposed to be fun. The key thing is that is effectively conveys the sort of person you are.

You can do this exercise using any medium that works for you: a hand drawn poster that you photograph, a word document, Powerpoint, Canva, video etc.

Second, choose about 6 people who like you and know you well and send them your poster.

Explain the idea and ask for them to look at the poster and get back to you with a few ideas. Encourage them to think outside the box. Emphasise that there are no wrong ideas and that all suggestions will be really useful to you. Once they reply, remember to thank them.



N.B. a word of warning; it is probably unhelpful to involve people who have very dogmatic opinions and / or a controlling attitude in this exercise, unless you feel comfortable managing the expectations that this might create.

Third, review and reflect.

When your contacts have responded you'll have loads of ideas to consider.

Ask yourself:

- Which ones leap out as sounding really intriguing?
- What can you learn from the common themes?
- Are there any noticeable absences?
- Which will you decide to look into further?
- Why do you think they've suggested these ideas?
- Have they notice things about yourself that you haven't or maybe made connections between things that are important for you to ponder?

If you like talking through things, then you may wish to discuss the ideas with the individuals to understand them better.

Remember though that these are only suggestions. It is up to you to stand back, which appeal most and which ones you want to look into further. All you have done is asked for ideas. You do remain in control.

You may also find it helpful to book a career appointment to share the outcomes of this exercise with someone who can provide an objective sounding board.

Because everyone is different, no one solution is a magic bullet, so please also look at our other self-help tools.

References and Resources

- Kraznaric, R. (2012). *Howto Find Fulfilling Work*. Macmillan.



If you are a member of staff from another educational organisation and want to use a limited number of our self-help tools with your students, we'd love to hear from you and share good practice. We'd ask that you retain references to University of Huddersfield as a matter of courtesy and acknowledge the other sources we've used. Thank you.