

Transcription - How To Decide On A Career

Welcome back, I'm Kim Baillie, she's Fulyana Orsborn and this is Inside Exec.

Today we're going to look at the other end of the spectrum of careers, people who are starting out from their careers. We want to look at how you decide, you've decided on a career path or a career type, how you decide within that when there are options available. How do you get information that is useful to you? And I will say at the start that I have been involved in many, many careers days and career talks and career presentations and graduate recruitment programs. When I think back to those days and the hundreds of people who were in the rooms trying to get information, I am amazed that they were able to make a decision. It is like speed dating. It's just five minutes here, two minutes there, run around a room trying to get as much information as you can. You don't have time to talk to anyone. You don't have time to ask the questions that are important to you to ask. There's hundreds of them, particularly if we're talking school, high school, you know, there's all of your mates around and know you want to have just a half day at the career day, so you can go off and do something else. The focus is not there, but when it gets to the point where you have to make the decisions, you have to make the choices to do university entrances or you're in the university system already and you've got to start choosing some electives.

I guess when we're choosing electives at high school, it was a little bit different because we were very limited in what the school offered. These days with the wealth of online and in-house learning, I think the choices are probably more structured, but just as overwhelming in a lot of ways because you can't get the information that you need to know. Everyone needs to know a little bit differently than you want to know, a different focus of the information. So what can you do to get information that's relevant to you from someone who's not trying to sell you a job or sell you a career, but is actually doing it, has done it, did it and decided it wasn't for them? All of the things that you, in the back of your mind, you'd like to know, but you don't know who to ask, you don't know who to trust with the answers because you feel like everyone might be a bit biased in terms of what they're trying to promote or trying to sell or they're checking you out. You might find that it's somewhat embarrassing to ask some of the questions because you think that they might think that you should know that already. If you wanted this career, then you should know that already. So you can't ask what we would call the dumb questions because you worry about how you're being perceived as well.

I think, for example, as Kim just said, they have access to a lot of information and they have those seminars whether they're virtual or in person. They have people already addressing from those different work types, so engineering, medicine, whatever. So you'll have a speaker. But as you said, there's a lot of people and so many questions. What you want is, imagine, I'll tell you, I know my cousin, three times removed, is in that profession. And I think I'll just go and ask him for coffee and then we can sit down and talk. This way, he or she will tell me what their experience is and their pros and cons and their biases and non-bias.

But I don't know anyone like that. So what do I do? How do I get to someone like that?

Well the good news is, there's plenty in your network. Your network will have its own network and so it goes on. And believe it or not, people are willing to help each other. So, yeah, if you said to me, okay, so you have been an engineer and somebody is really looking at deciding

what they're going to be, a civil engineer, a structural engineer, whatever, I'll be more than happy to sit with someone and have a cup of coffee. People like to pass their knowledge on, they do that. And it's probably easier when you don't know them and you're not related to them or anything like that. This way you can ask and then you might think, well, you've still got to make your own decision. You're not the person you're talking to, they've got their own experiences. But you can ask questions and they can share with you.

Some people, particularly now, people change careers a lot. And so maybe you've done five years of this and then just start to swap into something else.

So you can actually talk about that. You might be thinking, well, I don't really want to go in the corporate world. I want to do a start up and you can speak to two or three start ups, but they won't talk to me because of competition and knowledge and all that. No, you can talk generically. People would be happy to do that.

Let me tell them what they experienced, what they thought about, how did they start the business, what was the things that you must have or don't worry about just yet. That's all the things.

Firstly, look within your network. If your network doesn't have it, chat and just say, look, I'm thinking of going into medicine. Anybody connected that you know, when you talk, anybody know someone who's been there, done that and happy to discuss it. And then if you can, another person who has been there, done that and got out. And then another group, the ones that have been there, done it, and now they're not working anymore. That pool will give you such a diverse experience range. So if you've mates with one of those sort of people, then you have more than enough questions that apply to you and in a one on one situation where you can actually sit there and say, "Oh, okay, I didn't think of that for my type of personality and what I'm looking for, okay, that's a good point, I must consider that." Or, "Oh, you know, that definitely suits me, that makes me more excited," etc, etc.

So do that. If you're having any trouble, I'm sure, we can manage to try and help through our network. If you want to, if you're looking for someone and you don't know anyone, we will use our network if we can. We obviously wouldn't have one in every walk of life, but that doesn't stop us from actually inviting others. And this is a good platform because we have such a broad range of listeners, and some of them we don't know, some of them we've never met. So if we put the call out through here for information or to try and connect people, even if it was just virtually, that offer is always there on the table. That's what we're here for.

Before she chokes on her halo, I will finish. I'm Kim Baillie, she's Fulyana Orsborn and this is Inside Exec.