

A WORD FROM THE "SOIE"

Shifts in economy, evolutions in technology and changes in society mean that the prospect of a linear career – that is, following one initial, fundamental and definitive career choice from start to finish – is becoming less and less likely.

Many people change jobs several times throughout their professional lives. The world of work is far from static, as various opportunities, constraints and uncertainties can bear a strong influence on our trajectories.

Moreover, the concept of a degree has long been regarded as a passport to success, but it is not the only factor for building a career. Other determiners, such as managerial skills, also actively affect career evolution.

But, if the world of work is so changeable, why is it still necessary to formulate a career plan?

There are several reasons for doing so:

► Finding your way

While some may be able to find a vocation very early on, many of you have not identified what kind of job you wish to do after graduation. However, before entering the job market, some of

you will feel the need to imagine yourselves in the future and find your path.

In order to do so, you must question your deeper motivations and what resonates with you. This action will help you create a plan that suits you personally and gives meaning to your professional life.

► Choose your course and build a strategy

Besides letting you take stock of your professional assets, devising a career plan also helps you shape and create a relevant strategy.

The more precise your career plan is, the better your chances are of finding the desired job.

► Meet recruiters' expectations

Although careers are not fixed, recruiters still expect you to:

- Have thought carefully about your professional future;
- Talk about your convictions and your personality, so that they can determine whether or not you fit in with the working culture of their organization;
- Highlight your skills for the particular position, as well as crucial skills for the development of your professional career.

How do I build a career plan?

If, for most of you, this is the first real decision in terms of your professional direction, you can prepare with no need to fear getting it wrong.

To do so, we ask that you follow a precise method that will help you make decisions confidently and judiciously.

The method comprises three steps:

- Carrying out a personal assessment
- Exploring your market and confirming your plan
- Boosting your professional profile.

Only after following these steps of introspection, exploration and confirmation will you be able to impress recruiters with a career plan that bears all your characteristics and sets you apart at the same time.

We firmly believe that you should learn this method as of now, and that through its use, you will have a firmer and more assured grasp of how to start your career.

To guide you, SOIE has developed this **handbook**.

The purpose of the handbook is to present you with a step-by-step methodology for career success, supporting your academic and professional path from initial development to final validation.

It is simultaneously:

- A simple tool with exercises for you to complete
- A booklet to allow you to collect personal information and take notes
- A guide full of practical tips.

A word from the Graduate Degree Program

Dear Students,

Transitioning to the working world can be both challenging and intimidating. We hope this Career Handbook – prepared by the École Polytechnique Career & Development Center – will give you the tools you need to prepare successfully for life after École Polytechnique.

In these pages, you will find useful information that will help you learn more about yourself and your skills, clarify your career direction, efficiently connect with professional networks, write résumés and cover letters, so as to secure meaningful internships and full-time job opportunities.

This Handbook talks about your future. Make good use of it and *au travail!*

– Anne Chrétien –
Head of the Graduate Degree Program

