

DIGITAL SKILLS: USER EXPERIENCE

ACCENTURE

WEEK 2

CAREER JOURNEY – UX DESIGN

First of all, every career is different and unique. There are some key steps you can take though that will help you get to where you want to be.

Remember, your career is a journey, and you have to tackle it step by step. You won't be a Manager tomorrow - but the way there is fun and worthwhile!

Here you'll find a few ideas to get you started.

Find Out More!

- **Podcasts.** Podcasts are a great way to learn about new design principles, stay up to date with the latest UX trends, and hear from influential leaders in the field.
- **Blogs.** Blogs are great sources of information and points of view on key UX topics -you can even get involved in the discussion over Social Media!
- **Professional websites.** Professional websites showcase exemplary work within the UX field and publish articles on best practice for the industry.

Build A Network

- **Professional networking sites.** Follow influencers and interest groups to help you research the industry, and connect with your past and present colleagues to build your network via pages like LinkedIn. You can also try to reach out to other UX Designers directly to find out about their career.
- **Career Fairs or Networking Events.** Most cities, schools and colleges host careers fairs, and there are many websites that can help you find events in your area. These are great opportunities to meet employers or recruiters, build up your network and learn more about the industry.
- **Mentors.** Mentors can provide great, hands on advice and support to help guide you through choices in your career. You can for example find a mentor in your personal network, school, sports, or through mentorship programmes.

Build Your Skills

- **Online Training.** Use online courses, just like this one, to teach yourself the skills required in your industry. There's lots to learn, and lots of places to support you in doing so.
- **Try Out Tools.** As you learn more about a topic, you will come across the programmes and platforms that UX professionals use to do their jobs. Try these tools out so you are comfortable with the industry standards.
- **Start a Project.** As you gain more practical and theoretical knowledge, you may want to start a project. This is a great way to showcase your skills and gain experience in UX - even without a client!

Get Experience

- **Work Experience.** Search for work experience placements, internships or traineeships to gain experience. This will be invaluable in helping you develop skills and secure a permanent job in UX.

- **Apprenticeships.** Allowing you to learn on the job, apprenticeships grant you a nationally recognised qualification or even a degree whilst allowing you to gain practical experience.
- **University.** You can choose to study courses in User Experience Design at university to get a strong theoretical understanding of the field.

What Should I Do?

Good Question! Everybody has their own career path and journey. It's up to you to choose which elements suit you best. Check out the example career paths below for inspiration.

Anais - User Experience Researcher

Anais completed the UX course while in school. Together with a friend, she developed an idea for an app, and started playing around with some free wireframing and prototyping tools online to develop a design for it. They entered a design competition for new talent where they won 2nd place, which included career coaching. Anais knew UX Design was what she wanted to do, but she also needed to make a living for herself, which is why her career coach recommended her to apply for a UX Design apprenticeship a year later. She used the designs she created as a proof of her experience and passion.

She was accepted and excelled in the role - not least because she always asked for support and feedback from her more senior colleagues. After accepting a permanent job, Anais realised that what she loved most about the job was finding out what the users really wanted and needed - so she specialised in User Experience research.

Chris - Visual Designer

Chris had been working behind the counter in a computer shop for a while by the time he stumbled across the UX course online. He had always loved playing around with design and image editing tools, but now he realised that he wanted to make design his career. From here, Chris subscribed to UX blogs, took online training and even designed his own website that he used as an online portfolio to showcase his projects.

Chris went to a couple of networking events, where he chatted to people who already worked in the field. He met a UX Designer who was quickly convinced of his passion and offered to mentor him. His mentor helped him to improve his portfolio, which helped Chris to find work experience at a design agency. They were impressed with Chris' knowledge and his willingness to learn more, and made him a permanent offer as a junior UX Designer.

Chris has had the opportunity to specialise within the field, using all of his training and experience to become a Visual Design Expert.

Roger - UX Designer

Fond of digital art throughout his time at school, Roger became familiar with User Experience design after completing the UX Design course. He started watching inspirational talks on the power of UX, reading books and following all kinds of industry news. He knew he was hooked, so he decided to enrol in design school for university.

On his summer break, Roger completed an internship with a specialist UX design agency. During the internship, he learned to work with a number of different tools, and he built up some experience of working on real-life client projects. The experience later also helped him to secure a job with a different agency once he completed his degree.

Roger realised that what he loves about UX is the vast variety of work involved with the job. Instead of choosing to specialise, he became a "generalist" UX Expert.