

How to work out what type of graduate job will fit you best

Introduction

When I first started Graduate Coach I used to spend weeks with graduates trying to work out what jobs would suit them best. I used personality tests, endless self-completion questionnaires and lots of lots of talking.

It would often take up to a month just to get to the point where we would both agree... these types of jobs would be best.

Then three years ago, whilst speaking at a University Heads of Career Guidance conference, I was privileged to watch a spellbinding presentation by the Emeritus Professor of Labour force economics at Warwick University, Kate Purcell.

Using 25 years' worth of data from the largest continuous study of employment...The Labour force survey, she comprehensively demonstrate that whilst there are over 750 different graduate jobs, there only 3 types.

These typologies are shown below;

1. **Specialist:** Those jobs where you are hired principally because of your core expertise. Engineer, Scientist, Doctor, Coder, Translator etc, would be examples of this category.
2. **Knowledge Architect:** These are jobs where you are employed principally for your ability to interpret data and deliver insights from that data. Planners (of all types), Finance, Consultancy, Logistics, Marketing etc would be in this category as well as anyone who acts as a middleperson between the specialist and the third category.

3. **Communicator:** Jobs where you are employed principally for your ability to forge strong relationships with either external or internal clients. Advertising account people, Salespeople, Hospitality employees etc would fit into this category.

The presentation was a revelation to me and since then I have used her definitions to help graduates decide what type of typology they fit into, and from there what actual jobs would suit them best.

This methodology is fool proof. Grads are usually able to self-define themselves very quickly and once we have established that it's a straightforward matter of going through the jobs within each category.

So the first question I always ask someone is what type of graduate job do you fit into?