**What is important to me about my future work?**

Understanding your priorities can help you make decisions about which direction to take your career. Try listing the factors (suggestions on the next pages) in order of importance to you. Consider what’s non-negotiable (very important) to you in a job. Lower on the scale, you can list aspects that would be ‘nice to have’, ‘can get that later’, or ‘don’t need’. Priorities often shift through people’s careers. We’ve listed some factors that researcher tell us are important to them. Add your own.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Very Important** | **Important** | **Quite important** | **Of some importance** | **Not important** |
| 1. | 4. | 7. | 10. | 13. |
| 2. | 5. | 8. | 11. | 14. |
| 3. | 6. | 9. | 12. | 15. |

Location of work, long term security, challenging, work-life balance, variety, independence, helping society, working close to my research field, being an expert, salary levels, flexibility

*Adapted from ‘Build your own Rainbow’ by Hopson and Scally*

### Work values and priorities ideas

### **Geographical location/base**

It is important that you work in the right part of the country for you.

### **Amount of travel**

You care about how much travel you are expected to do

### **Work-life balance**

It’s important to have time and energy to devote to activities outside work

### **Predictable routine**

You like to know roughly where and what you will be doing

### **Job security**

You like have stable employment rather than cope with the uncertainty of freelancing or short term contracts

### **Variety**

You enjoy having lots of different things to do.

### **Competition**

You enjoy competing against other people or groups.

### **Independence**

You like being able to work in the way you want, without others telling you what to do.

### **Friendship with colleagues**

You would or do like close friendships with people at work.

### **Fast pace**

You enjoy working rapidly at a high pace.

### **Status**

You enjoy being in a position which leads others to respect you.

### **Making decisions**

It is important to you to have to make decisions about how things should be done, who should do them, and when they should be done.

### **Creativity**

Thinking up new ideas and ways of doing things is important to you.

### **Risk**

You like to take risks.

### **Excitement**

It is important to you to have a lot of excitement in your work.

### **Money**

Earning a large amount of money is important to you.

### **Helping others**

It is important to you to help other people either individually or in groups, as part of your work.

### **A well-known organisation**

You like being part of a well-known organisation.

### **Promotion**

You like to work where there is a good chance of promotion.

### **Challenge**

You enjoy being ‘stretched’ and given new problems to work on.

### **Pressure**

You like working to deadlines.

### **Community**

You like to live in a place where you can get involved in the community.

### **Work with others**

You like to work in a team alongside others.

### **Physical challenge**

You enjoy doing something that is physically demanding.

### **Work alone**

You like to work on your own.

### **Artistic**

You enjoy work involving drawing, designing, making music, making models, etc.

### **Communication**

You enjoy being able to express ideas well in writing or in speech.

### **Recognition**

You do like people to appreciate you for the work you do.

### **Contact with people**

You enjoy having a lot of contact with people.

### **Precise work**

You like working at things which involve great care and concentration.

### **Help society**

You like to think that your work is producing something worthwhile for your society.

### **Supervision**

You enjoy being responsible for work done by others.

### **Persuading people**

You enjoy persuading people to do something or change their minds about something.

### **Learning**

It is important for you to learn new things.

### **Being expert**

You like being known as someone with special knowledge or skills.