

How to start a portfolio career

What are the benefits?

- 🔗 Stretch your strengths by using them with different people in different places
- 🔗 Increase your career resilience by being less exposed to uncertainty in one area
- 🔗 Find more flexibility and freedom by choosing how and what you spend your time on.

"A career is a portfolio of projects that teach you new skills, gain you new expertise, develop new capabilities and constantly reinvent you as a brand."

- Tom Peters

Ideas for Action: What to do first

1. Start where you are

Don't assume that your current employer won't support your interest in a portfolio career.

Be open, be honest and explore.

What flex can you find in your role today?

2. Build your brand

Create 'portfolio pull' by making your strengths stand out and helping people to see how your talents transfer.

Consider what platforms, projects & people could help.

What skills do you want to be known for?

3. Pick a pattern

Define how you want your days to work and make sure you communicate your boundaries to colleagues.

Identify people who do this well that you can learn from.

What would help you to draw a line and protect your time?

4. Risk vs. reliability

Reduce portfolio pressure by blending something that feels familiar with a role that feels newer.

Write down roles that feel more safe and secure.

What would you explore with an extra day a week?

Coach yourself questions

What would you gain from a portfolio career?



What would you be giving up or compromising on?



Who has a portfolio career that you could learn from?



How does a portfolio career fit with your strengths and values?



Recommended resources



Department for Education

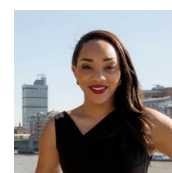
Department for Education

Explore Further Education teaching as part of a portfolio career.

THE PORTFOLIO COLLECTIVE

The Portfolio Collective

Short video explaining what a portfolio career is



How to build your brand

with Bianca Miller-Cole on #163 of Squiggly Careers