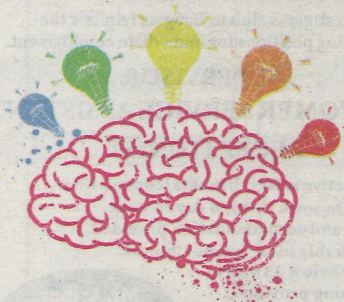




1 BRAINSTORM

Start by asking yourself tough questions. What is it that you really want out of your job? What energises you, what excites you, what are you passionate about? What sort of role do you envision yourself playing in your "dream job"? Also, think about what you specifically do not want.

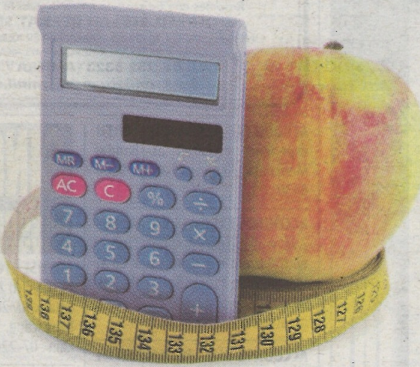
Perhaps there are some aspects of your current job that you really hate; so you'd want to try and ensure that you don't encounter those aspects again (as much as this is possible, of course). Be clear about the reason this dream job is right for you. Be focused on your goals and on what you want to achieve out of the transition. Take your time to think this through. Create a roadmap. Draw diagrams, mind maps or write out your ideas in words.

3 CALCULATE

What if your dream job is not in the corporate sector, or involves a pay cut of some sort? What if it's a position with a non-profit organisation, or you plan to start your own business? It is very important to sit down and do the math upfront before taking any action at all. Start with the amount you are earning now, and a list of your recurrent liabilities.

Factor into consideration, your liabilities – loan repayments, monthly bills and living expenses. Work out how much you need to earn to comfortably survive at your current level. And then look at your income if you were to quit your current job and take up your dream job. How much of a pay cut are we talking about?

Be very careful here, as the dream job could well turn into a nightmare if you suddenly find that your standard of living dropped drastically or worse, you fall into debt. Perhaps, if the numbers just don't add up right now, it would make more financial sense to transition gradually, rather than changing job immediately.



4 CONNECT

Get yourself out there and connect with your marketplace.

To find that dream job, or have it find you, you will need to connect with the right people. It won't simply land in your lap if you keep hiding out in your office cubicle, playing games on your smartphone all day? Need to make an effort to network in order to achieve anything in life. Even if you do not have the time or the inclination to do a lot of face-to-face networking, at least tap into online platforms such as LinkedIn.

Develop a programme to follow daily, through which you can work on connect with people in your industry, as well as with headhunters and talent managers. Follow corporations and join groups on LinkedIn, that are of professional interest. Upload and share articles which would be of interest to your professional community. Explore all possible options and connections that you could utilise and diligently follow through.

5 STEPS PLAN TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM JOB

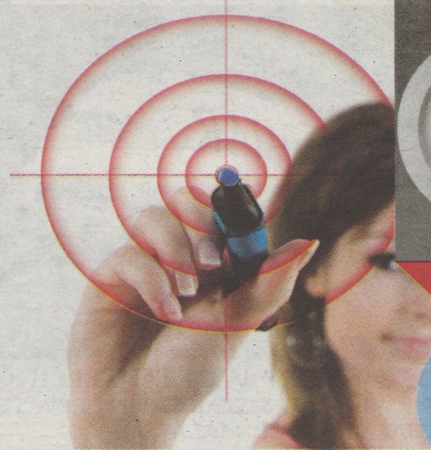
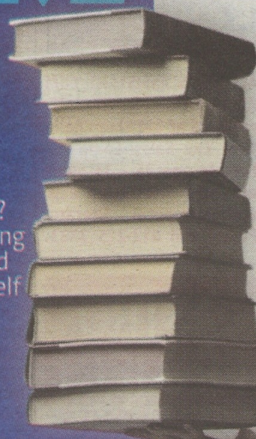
BORED at the office? Tired of your work? Dread going to work every day? Counting the hours till it is time to go home? And during the hours at work, do you find yourself dreaming of doing something completely different from what you're doing now?

Well, maybe it is time to consider changing job. But how does one start on such a journey?

Surely it is such a huge step to take, especially if you have obligations and responsibilities such as a family, and bills to pay every month. The majority of office workers are trapped in jobs they hate, but are too scared to do anything about it.

Yes, of course. Changing jobs in today's uncertain economic climate is a major decision. Which is why, as with all major decisions, a lot of planning and preparation should be done first. As the wise Lao Tzu said, the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

Try some of these tips to help you come up with an effective plan to prepare yourself for the transition.



2 VISUALISE

Gaze into the crystal ball and think about the future. What will your resume look like once you have landed your dream job? If all goes as planned, who will you be? The answer to this question would of course depend on your industry and position.

For example, let us say that you are currently a HR Manager in a small company, but aspire to work for a multi-national corporation. If you did succeed in getting such a job, how would your profile have changed? Based on the opportunities such an expanded role presents, what trainings and courses would you have attended, what certifications would you have obtained and what projects would you have worked on?

Who would be in your professional network? Do some research and write down your ideas. Refer to this "career roadmap" often. Being clear about where you want to be helps you make all the right moves to get there.

5 RAMP UP

Work hard and keep improving. Don't be complacent with the skills and experience you have already obtained. There is always room for improvement. Develop an improvement mindset and work on upskilling yourself. Get some experience in the area that you are targeting for your dream job, even if it means starting off with an unpaid internship of volunteer position.

Train yourself for the role that you want. Take courses, read everything you can get your hands on, develop specific skills that you will need, and talk to people who are already in that industry/position to learn as much as you possibly can.

Finally, keep what I like to call the P&P formula in mind; P&P stands for "proactive but patient". Your dream job needs to be crafted and worked on. Start planning and working towards it today, but don't expect fantastic results by tomorrow.



K.C. Lau is the author of *Top Money Tips for Malaysians*. Visit www.KCLau.com for more updates.