

## Best Learning Routes for Career Changers

A career change does not always require going back to square one. In many cases, the best move is to build on what you already know and add the skills that close the gap.

### Step 1: Identify the target role

Be specific. "I want a new career" is too vague.

Instead ask:

- What role do I want?
- What skills does it require?
- What qualifications are expected?
- What entry routes are available?

The clearer the target, the easier it is to choose the right learning route.

### Step 2: Audit your transferable skills

You may already have relevant strengths such as:

- Communication
- Project management
- Customer service
- Sales
- Administration
- Problem solving
- Technical confidence

This matters because a career change is often more of a repositioning exercise than a total rebuild.

### Step 3: Choose a realistic learning route

Common routes include:

- Free introductory learning for early research
- Short online courses for core skills
- Recognised qualifications for credibility
- Portfolio projects for proof of ability
- Volunteering, freelance work, or work shadowing for experience

### Step 4: Build proof, not just knowledge

Employers often want evidence that you can apply what you have learned.

That may include:

- A portfolio
- Case studies
- Completed projects
- Practical assessments
- Industry certificates

### Step 5: Move before you feel fully ready

Many career changers spend too long preparing and not long enough applying.

At some point, the best next step is:

- Applying for entry-level roles
- Taking on freelance work
- Gaining experience in real settings
- Talking to employers in the sector

### Final thought

The strongest career changes usually combine research, targeted learning, and practical action. Learn what matters, prove what you can do, and start moving toward the new role before perfection talks you out of it.

