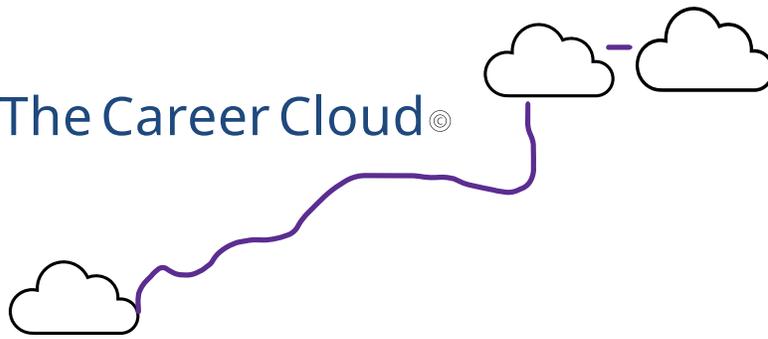# The Career Cloud ©

Purpose: This exercise helps you identify the real, practical skills and behaviours you have developed across your life and career. Most people underestimate what they can do. This exercise makes it visible. You will see your experience laid out in a series of clouds which stops it being a list of job titles and becomes a rich 3 dimensional picture of what you have learned navigated and achieved.

Allow approximately 60 minutes to complete this exercise and all you need is pens/pencils and a sheet of paper.

Step 1: Draw Your Career Cloud.

Draw a series of cloud shapes. Each cloud represents one role you have had in your life.

Include absolutely everything:

• First jobs when you were at school

• Part-time work

• Professional roles

• Volunteer roles

• Study and placement roles

It does not need to be neat and tidy it is for your eyes only (and maybe your career coach).

Step 2: Write a few words about the skills you developed in each role and try and be specific. In each cloud, write tangible skills and behaviours you developed at that time.

Example:
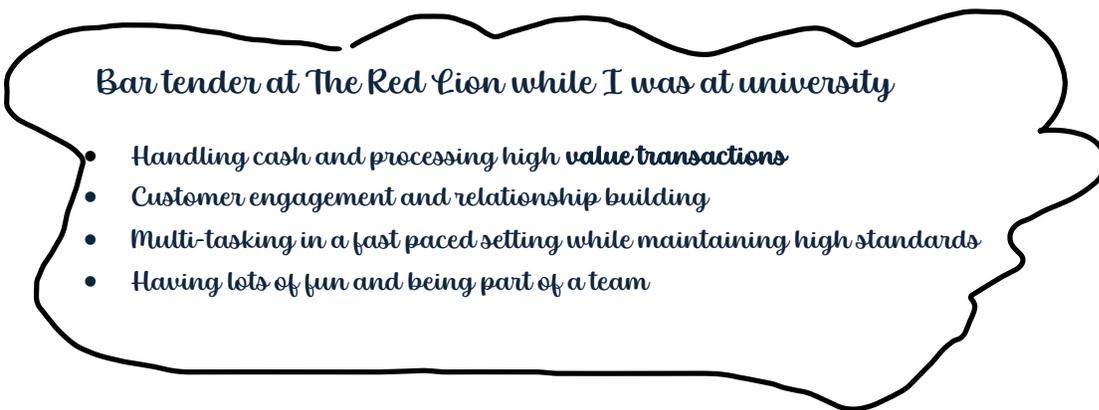
Bar tender at The Red Lion while I was at university

- Handling cash and processing high **value transactions**
- Customer engagement and relationship building
- Multi-tasking in a fast paced setting while maintaining high standards
- Having lots of fun and being part of a team

Step 3: When you have completed this for every role, revisit them and add a key thing that you took from the role. This can be anything at all, reflecting on the one thing that stands out.

Example:
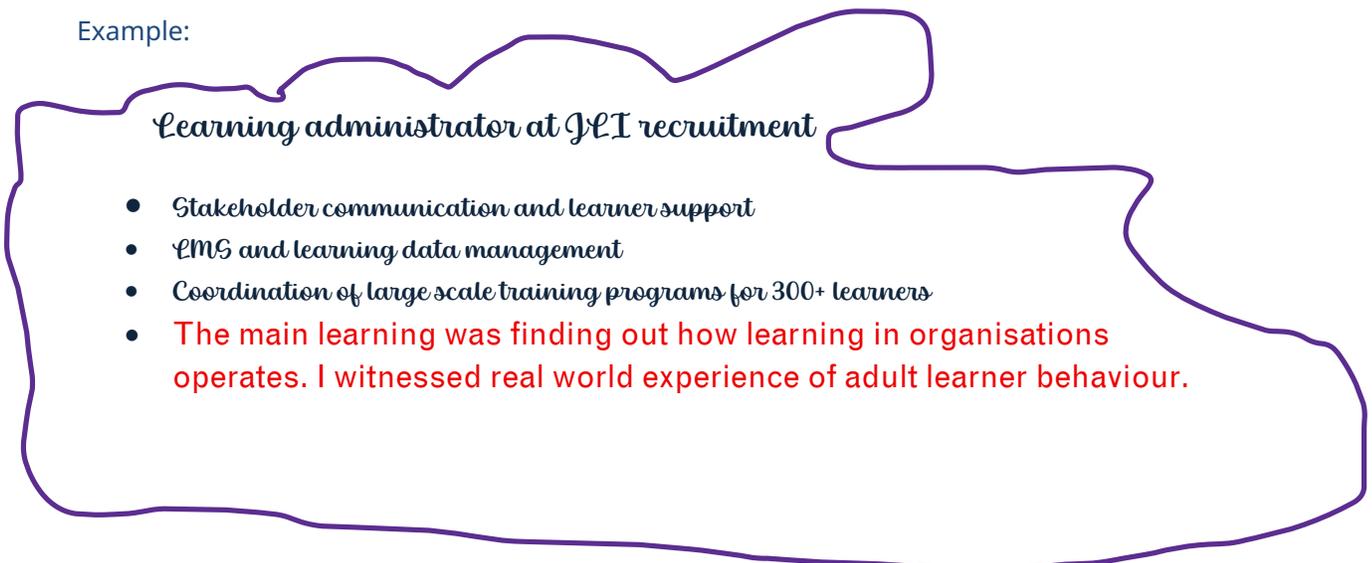
Learning administrator at JLI recruitment

- Stakeholder communication and learner support
- LMS and learning data management
- Coordination of large scale training programs for 300+ learners
- The main learning was finding out how learning in organisations operates. I witnessed real world experience of adult learner behaviour.

Step 4:

Now reflect on and review your full Career Cloud. Ask yourself these questions and take

notes:

1. What skills/behaviours/patterns appear across multiple roles? What may that tell

    you?

2. Which role surprised you most when you wrote it down?

3. Looking at the key takeaways from each role, what do they reveal about the kind of

    work environment which suits you best?

4. *Is there anything in the way you have drawn the clouds which may be interesting?*

    For example, do some roles cluster together while one is elevated and more

    colourful?

5. If a friend or coach looked at your career cloud, what would they say you are clearly

    capable of which you may have forgotten or overlooked?

6. Based on your cloud, how may it affect the next stages of your career growth or

    change?