

Career Counseling - Keys to Note

The Golden Rules of Finding Your Path

- **The 40-Year Myth is Dead:** You are not choosing a job for the next 40 years. You are just choosing your **next stepping stone**. It is okay to change your mind later!
- **Find Your "Sweet Spot":** Look for the overlap of three simple circles:
 1. What you enjoy doing.
 2. What you are naturally decent at.
 3. What the market actually pays for.
- **The Informational Coffee (The Cheat Code):** Want to know what a job is actually like? Find someone doing it in Banjul or Serekunda, buy them a cup of tea or coffee, and ask them for a 15-minute chat about their career journey.
- **Action Precedes Clarity:** You cannot "think" your way into finding a career; you have to **test** it. Take a free online course, volunteer, do a shadow day, or start a tiny weekend project.
- **Consider Hybrid Careers:** You don't have to choose between passion and stability. Combine them! An artist who studies business becomes an incredible Creative Director or Product Designer.

Five Questions to Ask Yourself

1. **The Status Test:** *Are you choosing this career path because you actually enjoy the daily work, or because it makes you look "successful" to family, friends, or social media?*
2. **The Flat-Rate World:** *If every single job in the world paid the exact same salary and held the exact same social status, what kind of problems would you want to spend your days solving?*
3. **The Pivot Safety Net:** *What is the absolute worst-case scenario if you try a career path for a year, realize you absolutely hate it, and decide to pivot? How hard would it really be to start over?*
4. **The Daily Habit Clue:** *What kind of videos do you naturally watch or topics do you read about when you are bored? What do friends naturally ask you to help them with?*
5. **The Safe Local Horizon:** *How can you turn local needs in your community—like modern agribusiness, trade, logistics, or technology—into a sustainable, high-reward career right here at home?*