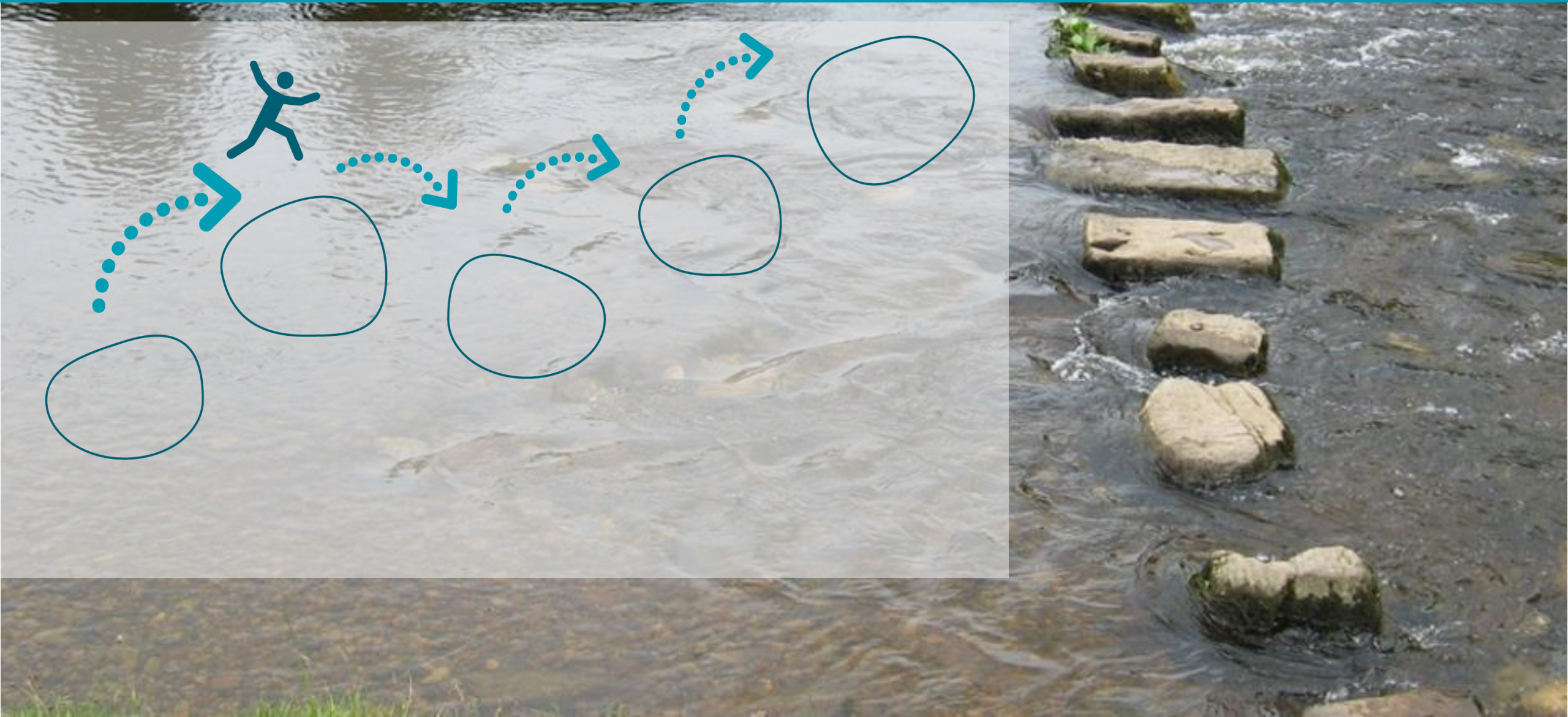


Skills Development Scotland

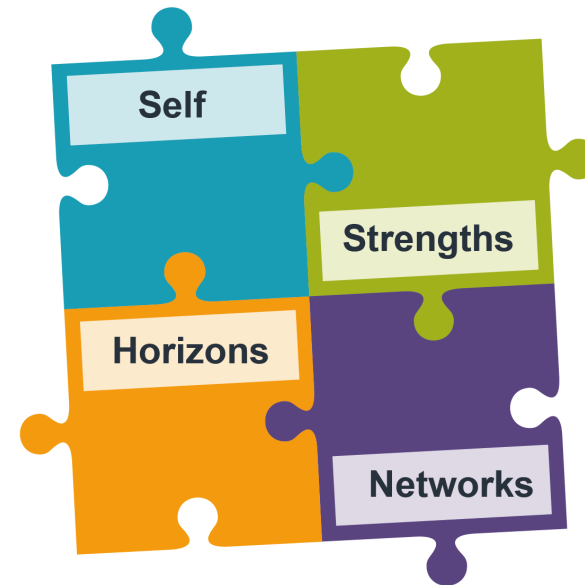
Options after School Toolkit



Thinking about your next steps after study

This SDS Resource Pack includes information to help you plan ahead and prepare for your future. Find out more about:

- Options after school
- Routes & pathways after study
- Where to access information
- Career Management Skills
- My World of Work website



Help in school

SDS is in every secondary school in Scotland. Your school careers adviser can help you understand the world of work and help you develop and use your career management skills as you move throughout school.

We do this through our online service, My World of Work, and in person through our careers advisers, and our My World of Work Live advisers.

If you are planning to leave school, why not arrange a meeting with your careers adviser



When can I leave school?

The exact date you can leave school in Scotland depends on when your 16th birthday is. If it's between 1 March and 30 September, you can leave school after 31 May of that year (summer leaver). If it's between 1 October and the end of February, you can leave at the start of the Christmas holidays in that school year (winter leaver).

If you are a winter leaver, you must remain in full time education until Christmas, but you can apply to college as an exceptional entrant. This means you could study full time at college instead of studying S5 in school.

If you stay on at school for S5 but choose to leave school at Christmas, colleges offer some 'January-start' courses. Your SDS adviser can also help you explore employment, training or apprenticeship options.

Help after you leave school

Once you have left school we are still here to help. We will contact you by phone/text or email to offer our help.

Locally, we have careers advisers available to meet and support you with your career choices. We can be found in SDS centres in **Aberdeen, Inverurie and Peterhead**, we also have careers advisers at **NESCoI** in Aberdeen and Fraserburgh.

Search here for contact details of your nearest [SDS careers centre](#) or [community venue](#).

You can also speak to an SDS careers adviser by phoning our national helpline on [0800 917 8000](tel:0800 917 8000).



How can a meeting with a SDS Careers Adviser help?

A conversation with purpose to support you to:

- Determine who you are
- Work out what you have got to offer
- Identify your career options
- Fill in any gaps
- Work out your goals
- Prioritise your options
- Make a decision
- Create a plan of action



Options available after study –what's best for you?

There are lots of routes available after school.

Making learning and career choices isn't just one step - it is many steps but remember there is no wrong path.



College



- Gain an industry recognised vocational qualification up to HND level (SCQF Levels 4 - 8).
- Variety of vocational and non-vocational courses
- Potential to study close to home and in stages
- Often 3.5 days per week
- Opens pathways to employment and further study

Modern Apprenticeships



- Gain an industry recognised qualification in a real-world environment while you earn a wage (normally SCQF Levels 5 – 8).
- Over 100 different types
- Get a salary, holiday pay etc.
- Normally 18 – 48 months long
- Hands on experience in industry
- 92% remain with employer on completion
- Find out more at www.apprenticeship.scot

Employment



- The world of work can be confusing - SDS Advisers can help you find your way to the career that is best for you; we can:
- Help you get ready for the world of work
- Give you individual careers advice and guidance
- Give you information about local employers
- Help you with CVs and application forms
- Tell you about careers events
- Give you access to PCs for job hunting

University



- Gain a degree level qualification in your chosen subject. Typically study between 3 and 5 years (SCQF Levels 10 – 12).
- Hundreds of courses to choose from
- Greater earnings potential than non-graduates
- Necessary for some careers
- Potential for more independence
- Year in industry/internships etc.

Degree Link



- Potentially gain advanced entry to University after completing a HNC or HND at college.
- Alternative entry route into degree level study
- Allows you try subject before committing to 4 years+
- Opportunity to study in different places.

Graduate Apprenticeships



- Gain full-time industry experience and a wage – while you get a degree (up to SCQF Level 11).
- Get paid a salary (often 18-20k+)
- 14 different frameworks
- Gain hands on industry experience
- Complete a GA in the same time as full-time students
- 80% learning in the workplace

Training Provision – No One Left Behind

Local training providers can support you 1-1 or in small groups to:



Gain skills, confidence and access support to help achieve employment goals



Prepare for employment, training, education, and volunteering and receive support with career progression



Get the right support at the right time through flexible, tailored and person-centred support



Work with the Key Worker on an individual plan to help reach goals



Choosing your path

- Remember there is no wrong path!
- Ask yourself:
 - What does the opportunity offer?
 - What does the opportunity demand ?
 - What challenges might it present?
 - How does it make you feel?



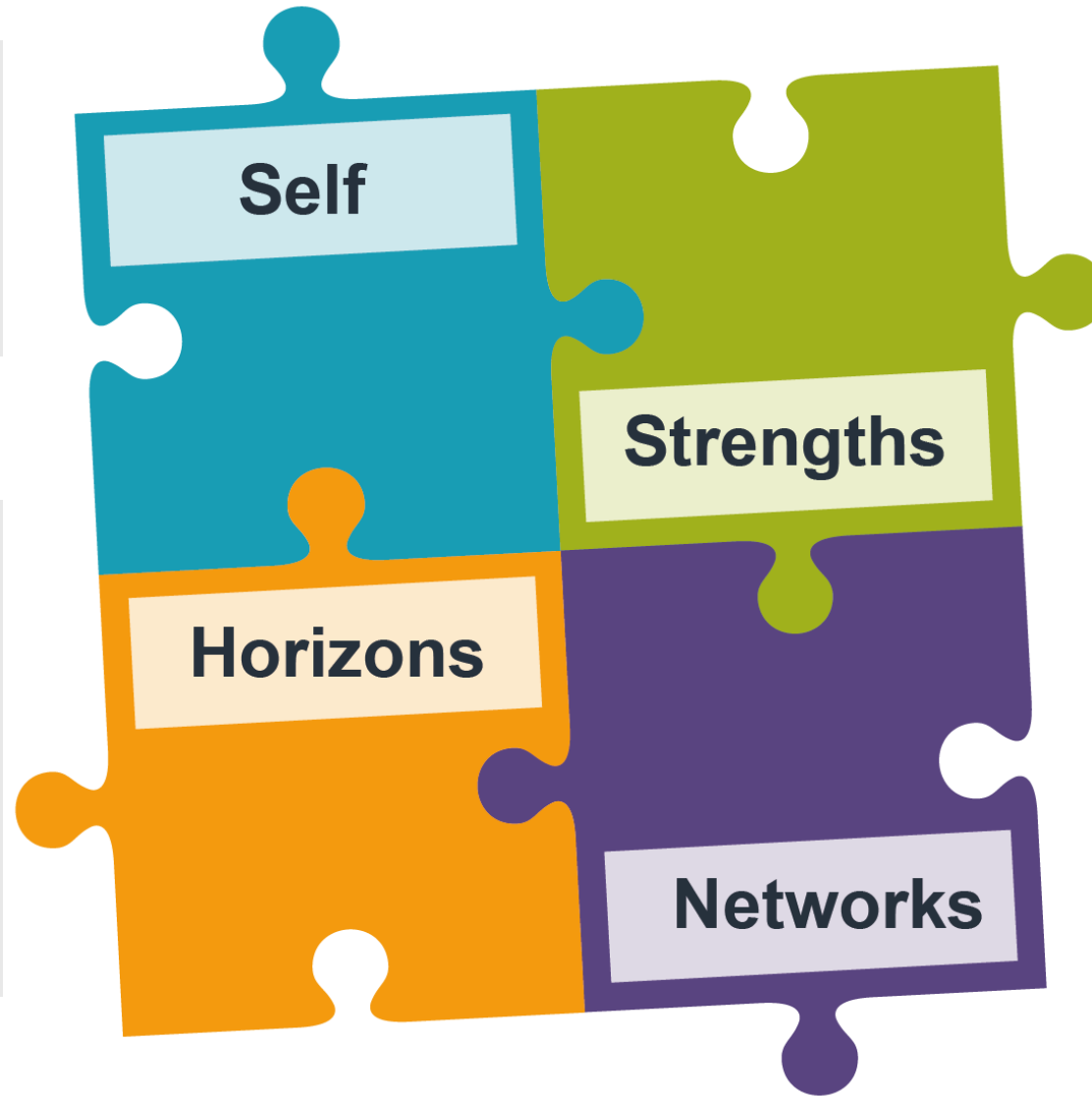
Get started by thinking about your Career Management Skills

Who am I?

This is just about getting to know who you are, what you can do, what's the right thing for you.

What's out there for me?

This is about getting to know what's out there in the world of work. It's all about understanding what jobs are, what industries are and all the ways you could get ready for a job.



What am I good at?

This is about getting to know and understand what stuff you're good at. It's about your skills and how to use them in different ways.

Who can help me?

This is about the people around you and how they can help you to get on with your career. It's also about getting to know people who can help you and how to keep in touch with them.

How ready are you to move forward?

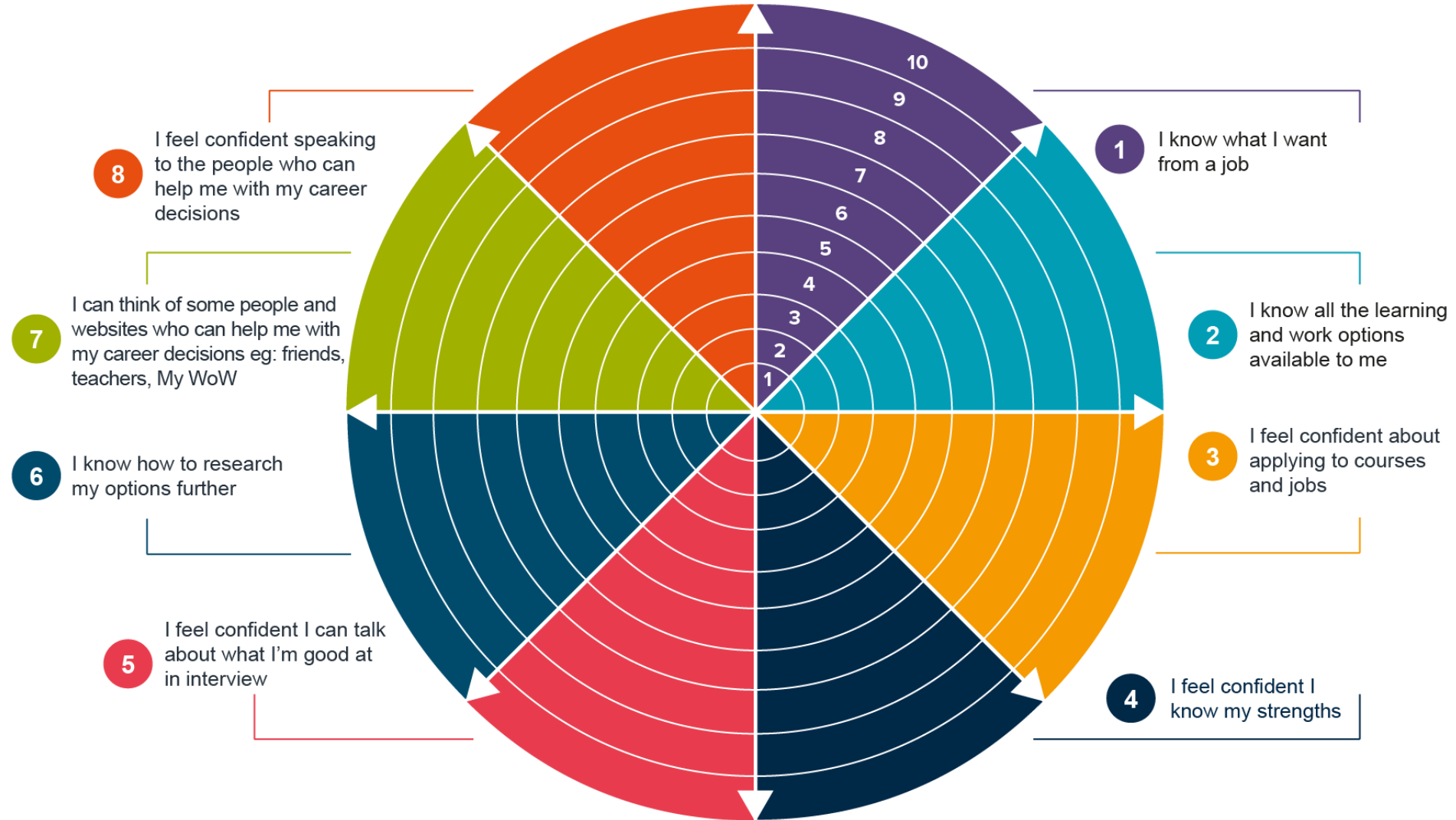
To help you decide where you need to focus, scale yourself to see how much you agree with each statement.

(1= least confident; 10=most confident)

Which areas feel most important for you to focus on?

What action could you take to develop in these areas?

How could developing in these areas help you to achieve your career goals?

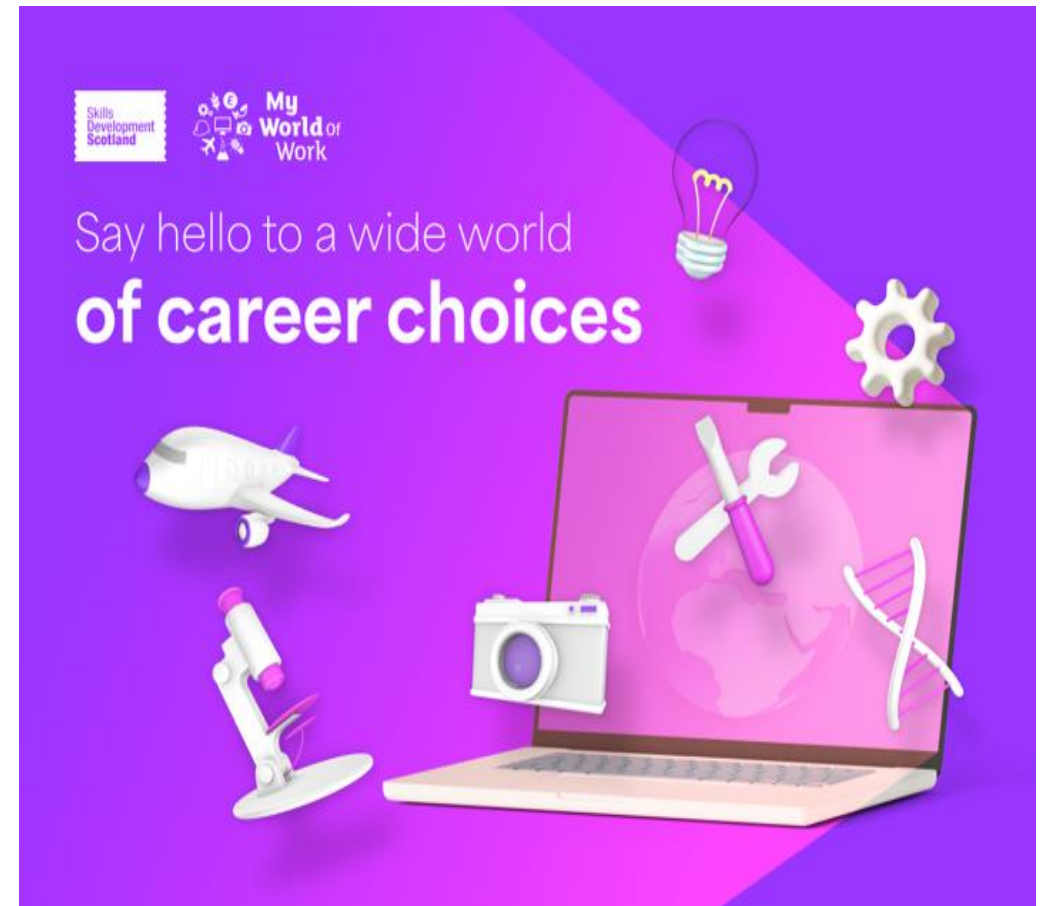


Online Guidance - My World of Work

- Visit our website

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

My World of Work is Scotland's careers website. It helps you explore your career, skills and learning opportunities from college right through your working life. It's packed full of tools and advice to help you on your career journey.



Useful Websites

- NESCol - <https://www.nescol.ac.uk/>
- My World of Work – www.myworldofwork.co.uk
- Apprenticeships - <https://apprenticeships.scot/>
- DYW Jobs Portal - <https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal>
- Training providers - employmentconnect.org.uk/ (Aberdeenshire) & <https://abzworks.co.uk/> (Aberdeen City)

