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queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/supporting-communities/education-and-young-people

Every year the first week of March is National Careers Week and there is now a special East Careers Week then too.

If you'd like to chat to a professional careers' adviser they are there for you: Call 0800 100 900 free from most mobiles or webchat/text/email - search National Careers Service online

Good luck and may you always have all the spoons you need.
educationofficer@ucl.ac.uk



ucl.ac.uk

Don't be spoon-fed*

A little pack of careers ideas

* spoonfed
[spu:n fɛd]

given ready-made ideas,
not given the opportunity to
think or act for oneself

What do you want to do with your life?

This journey begins where a lot of things begin, in the kitchen. If you can, take this little pack home and start there.

You're going to need a spoon.

There may be people in your life who tell you what they think you should do for a career:

-  You should be a doctor, or a lawyer, something professional
-  I don't care what you do but you got to earn your own money
-  Work in a bank, that's nice and secure
-  You're coming to work in the shop with me

Two things to remember

1. It's your life and what you do will depend on what interests you have and what skills you develop.
2. You won't only have one job, or career, in your life. You can and will do different work at different times, so focusing on 1 will help you get started.

You can have your own thoughts about what you might want to do for work. You don't want to be spoon-fed.

Now go and get a spoon. Take a long look at it. What is it made of? Where did it come from? Who do you think made it? Any idea how it was made? And how did it get here? What kinds of job can you think of people doing that are related to your spoon?

This little pack has bitesize bits of information about jobs and careers that connect to spoons of different kinds. We hope it gives you some starting points for thinking about your own future career.

Did you know that a spoon is the first piece of cutlery humans came up with? We had a knife but that was a weapon, it was not for buttering your bread. About 3000 years ago people first carved wood into the small bowl shape with a handle.

Archaeologists are the ones who research ancient objects like these, literally digging them out of the ground. They may work in museums, where there are lots of other jobs related to telling the stories of world history and culture. A lot of museum work is now digital, with apps created to help us enjoy exhibitions.



Wooden cosmetic spoon, made around 1300BC. Photo © The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology UCL

Local wood

Barn the Spoon in Hackney is a fantastic craftsman who hand carves spoons using axes and knives. There are many artists and makers like Barn in east London, not only doing woodwork but creating things like prints, jewellery, clothing, showing it's possible to have a career in making.

Delve into more stories of the people and industry which have given the River Lea Valley its rich heritage here rawmaterials.bowarts.org where there is an online map showing how wood, textiles, and ceramics become linked to local places.

There is a special carpenters' college in Stratford. Their history is on the Raw Materials map. It's now called the Building Crafts College, with students learning carpentry and joinery (how to make furniture) as well as construction for buildings, among many other skills.

The Institute of Making is one place where you can find out about what things are made from and the ways we use different materials like wood, plastics, metal. They will soon be based at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. instituteofmaking.org.uk



Hand-carved eating spoon by Barn the Spoon

Made in East London



Image: www.ents24.com

Music careers

Most jobs are behind the scenes. Sound engineers deal with all the equipment needed to record and edit and mix music or other sounds. The job involves working on the technical side, using mixing boards, testing and making basic repairs on recording equipment, creating copies of recordings in other formats.

The job of a digital audio editor mainly involves making changes to improve tracks such as cutting, copying, splicing, mixing, cleaning, and adding effects to the recording session output.

Sound engineers also work on radio shows, alongside radio producers who come up with ideas for the content in a radio show. The producer makes sure everything runs smoothly for the presenter. If you love music and conversation this is one job that has a lot of both.

Event producers manage everything to do with a live music show, from booking spaces and equipment to making sure everyone turns up on time. They could work on individual gigs or festivals with loads of bands. They manage the operations team, whose job it is to set up stages and make sure everything works.

Music promotion is a marketing job where people use communication skills to connect bands with the rest of us. They organise publicity for gigs, from posters to digital ad campaigns, and make lots of contacts with agents and venues to help sell their bands.



Robotics and AI

Meet Spoon, the first non-humanoid robot with personality and emotions. From talking with people, they learn how to answer and ask questions.

In any likely future, robots will play a role in our lives and they will be more and more autonomous – that is, able to make decisions for themselves then act on those decisions. The number of industries investing in robots is growing all the time.

Engineering and design skills come together with maths and computer science to develop robots and artificial intelligence (AI) systems.

Careers in robotics and AI

Software developers are the creative minds behind the robotics. Some develop the applications that allow the robotics to carry out specific tasks, while others develop the underlying systems that run the robotics.

Software engineers work to improve the design and development of the software within robots.

Robots need looking after: an electrical maintenance engineer uses their skills to find out what's causing a fault and repairs it.

There will be a robotics centre at UCL East, the innovative campus UCL is building in east London. There will be courses that involve both learning academic principles and developing practical skills in making, using experimental design and system engineering.



Image: Spoon AI



Travelling with a spoon



Image: The Pebble, by I Am Other

500 years ago, few people like you and me had their own spoons. We'd have used 3-day-old bread to scoop our stew. If you visited places, your host wasn't expected to provide you with cutlery - you had to have your own travelling spoon.

In the 21st century, you could work on designing/making/promoting/selling a travelling spoon like the Pebble (shown above), a bring-your-own cutlery set for the coronavirus pandemic made from recycled CDs in collaboration with singer Pharrell Williams.

Careers in travel, hospitality, leisure

Designers and engineers work at Ford Mobility in Stratford to develop new kinds of transport for city living, like driverless cars. The Advanced Propulsion Lab at UCL East researches greener cars and batteries, where you could work to fight climate change. High speed train companies run the Javelin fast train from Stratford into Kent and through the Eurotunnel to France, with careers from driver to website designer or finance manager.

The leisure industry offers international opportunities within sports, tourism, hospitality and event management as well as a vast range of entry level work. You could be working within sports policy, development and administration, coaching and wellbeing, on a graduate programme within a global hotel, leisure brand or travel agency. People in these jobs have a desire to create enjoyable experiences, and they need great communication skills, flexibility, and commercial awareness.

Career path? It's more of a winding track



You won't have one job in your life, or two, or three. There will be more than that. And it's highly likely that not all these jobs will be in the same field of work. And that's okay.

Technology changes, economies change, and people change. There are skills you can develop in one job that are useful for a job in a different area. You find that one more interesting so you switch. Communication skills, computer skills, time management, meeting deadlines. You already have these.

What other skills can you think of that most jobs require?

Then there's the portfolio career. This is where someone has several jobs at once, often a part-time job to pay the bills combined with freelance work, where they work for themselves on something they enjoy doing more. For example, with our spoon in mind, Zaha works in a café and is a freelance graphic designer creating the page layouts for *Cutlery World* magazine.

Being freelance is usually something people decide to do once they have gained experience working in organisations. It means you are responsible for advertising your products or services, networking with businesses to find work opportunities, being in charge of your website and social media, motivating yourself to finish all work on time and to a great standard, getting all your own materials, paying your own tax.

East London has lots of start-ups where people are running their own small businesses working in this way, being entrepreneurs. HereEast in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is one place where lots of such people are based, and a lot of them offer work experience and training.



The journey of a spoon

We're going to look at the journey of how a spoon comes into being. There are thousands of jobs connected to this process.

What's your spoon made of? It's usually stainless steel. Steel is mainly iron with small amounts of other elements mixed in. Stainless steel is iron with an element added to it to stop it going rusty so it's perfect for spoons.



Iron is part of what our planet is made of, it is a heavy element, and elements of this type can only be created in "star death" events called supernovae. These are rare events, occurring only a few times every hundred years throughout the entire Milky Way Galaxy. Astronomists are scientists who investigate the universe and find out things like this. Careers connected to astronomy include satellite engineer, telescope operator, or work in a planetarium which teaches about space.



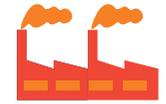
On Earth, iron is usually found thoroughly mixed into rocks. Geologists work with mining companies to explore where and how to extract such raw materials from the ground, which are then shipped to a processor.



Did you know that 90% of everything you own was brought to you by ship? Careers in shipping are often on land: the operations team in any type of business is all about support, co-ordination, communication, administration, and customer service. There are loads of jobs at sea, from engineers to cooks, as well as the crew responsible for the ship and people, and in ports such as the Port of London, which covers 95 miles of the River Thames.



For your spoon, iron was made into stainless steel in a blast furnace where it is heated to over 2000°C. Convertors take 330 tonnes of molten iron and turn it into steel in just 25 minutes. Big sheets of the metal go to factories to be cut, shaped and polished to produce your spoon.



Not all spoons are the same and before the manufacturing, a designer had to work on deciding the size, shape, and pattern of your spoon. They thought about how the spoon should curve, how wide the handle would be. Product designers like this use computer programmes to turn their idea sketches into finished designs. Every single thing you use, from clothes to toilets to doors to buses was designed by someone like this.



Your spoon came to you from a shop. Shop buyers have the job of researching and choosing products that a shop sells, for example a fashion buyer specialises in choosing clothes.



Your spoon probably started out in a set of cutlery. Both the packaging it came in and the shop itself have brand designers who created their look. If they are a well-known, on-trend designer or shop, the spoon is going to cost more. Finance is a term for matters involving the management, creation, and study of money and investments. Careers in finance include accountancy and banking. The world of finance is changing rapidly with people developing new technologies to work out how to address environmental and social needs while still making sure we can all buy spoons.

