D’Angelo’s Education & Career

D’Angelo went to college to do IT but he hated it. He stopped attending and the college told him to leave as his attendance was below 80%.

His Stepfather got him a job at a friend’s barbers shop washing hair. He decided that he liked working as a hairdresser and applied to go to college part-time to do Hairdressing. He spent two years studying hairdressing and working at the same time. He achieved a Level 2 qualification in Barbering.

After a few years, he was offered the chance to buy the barber’s shop as his boss was retiring. He applied for a loan from the bank and was accepted. He decided to do a 10 week business start-up course at a local college to help him to run this business.

Ayub’s Education & Career

Ayub didn’t know what he wanted to do when he left school. He had good A-Level results (B – French, B – Maths & Art – A). He decided to do a general degree course which would allow him to choose later. Having looked at lots of courses, he decided to study French as he wanted to travel. As part of his course, he spent a year living in France and studying at a French university.

While he was in France, he met a French girl and fell in love. After he graduated, he decided to move to Paris to live with her. He got a job in a French design studio translating from French into English. He quickly got bored translating but became interested in design. He taught himself how to use the design software and got a job in the design department.

Three years later, he split up from his girlfriend and decided to come home to London. He applied for a job in an advertising agency as a designer and was successful. They asked him to work on accounts with French companies.

Paolo’s Education & Career

Paolo has wanted to be a doctor ever since he was a little boy in Brazil. His parents moved to the UK when he was in Year 8 and he had to quickly learn English. He achieved good GCSEs and went to college to study Maths, Physics & Chemistry A-Level. He achieved 3 A grades in his A-levels and was offered a place at Bristol University to study Medicine.

He completed a 5 year medicine degree. Some of this time was spent in university and some was spent working in hospitals. After that, he had to spend another 2 years on a Foundation Training programme where he was working (and earning) but also receiving ongoing training.

After 2 years, he decided to specialise in Paediatrics (working with children). This means that he needed to pass more exams and to work in the area for a number of years. It can take up to 20 years for a doctor to become a Paediatric Consultant (the most senior type of Paediatrician).

Andressa’s Education & Career

Andressa went to university to study Geology. She wanted to travel and thought that she might work for an energy company. During her second year, she was accepted onto a Summer Holiday internship programme and she went to work in Scotland as a trainee geologist helping to build a new wind farm. She hated it and totally changed her mind about her future career.

She applied to do a Law Conversion Course (a one-year course that allows you to convert from any degree into a Law degree). She also found a law company who were willing to sponsor her course so she did not have to pay her fees and she received some money to live on.

She went to work for the law firm. For the first 4 years, she loved her job but then her Mum fell ill and she wanted a job with more flexibility so she could also look after her Mum. She took a job with a local law firm in her home town and, after 4 years, she became a partner.

Lauren’s Education & Career

Lauren didn’t know what she wanted to do when she left college but her parents persuaded her to apply for university anyway. She chose to do a Fashion course because her friend was also doing a course at the same university.

After the first few weeks, she realised that the course was boring and she stopped working. She failed her first year and was asked to leave. She volunteered to work on the university magazine and really enjoyed that.

Lauren started a blog online about fashion and got a job working part-time in a coffee shop. She has more than 1000 followers on her blog but she doesn’t earn any money from it. She has just been promoted to Assistant Manager in the coffee shop and is wondering whether she should give up the blog.

Vanda’s Education & Career

Vanda didn’t know what she wanted to do when she left school. She got really good GCSE and A-Level grades. She got a job working in an accountants’ office. She started as part of the admin team but applied for an apprenticeship when her firm offered an accountancy apprenticeship. She passed all her accountancy exams and worked for the firm for 2 years before it went bankrupt. She quickly got another job as an accountant.

She was an accountant for 9 years and she met her partner at work. They both decided that they would work part-time and therefore share the childcare.

Her partner decided to set up their own business and she offered to do the accounts. The business is going really well and she has given up her other accountancy job to work as the Finance Director for their new business.