Adapt-Ability to the rescue Managing career transitions in turbulent times Eve Uhlig Careers Consultant - Researchers Loughborough University

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Research in context





Research Questions



How can I use Savickas' Career Adaptability Inventory in career consultations to generate discussion?



How does PGRs' experience of completing the CAAI-UK encourage them to reflect on their career development?



How might the research findings influence the services provided to support PGRs' career development?









Findings from RFS and focus groups

Answering the RQs





Complete Reflective Field Sheet on CAAI-UK completed during or prior to career consultation





Data analysis process



Skills Guidance Placements Employment



Strongest themes

Self-reflection/ thoughts

- At different stages
- "I found myself wondering ... 'do I know more about this question than that one'? (completion)
- "useful to organize ideas", "provided some clarity" (subsequent discussion)



- "I could have spent hours [thinking and talking] because in each question I could really unpack my ideas"
- Free flow of conversations



- "I can see priorities and identify what to do next"
- Desire to "discuss these things, with a person … who understands your values" (ie make careers appointment)



- "... what other options do I have?
- "some kind of test or something"
- "... help me see alternatives"







CAAI-UK completion aided self reflection and the opportunity to step back/reflect is much valued by PGR in this study



Using CAAI-UK in practice encouraged a questioning style by the practitioner, this eased/generated discussion



Scores identified areas in need of development – especially *concern* (about the future)



Visual results and opportunity for discussion aided action identification and likely commitment to act



Numerous ways to inform career practice were identified





Skills Guidance Placements Employment

Enhancing an individual's Adapt-Ability

Concern (about the future)

- Investigate options
- Form a flexible plan
- Gain work experience
- Complete Prospects Career Planner
- Build networks

Curiosity (to explore options)

- Explore wider options
- Identify any training needs
- Work shadow/placement/info interviews
- Practice writing job apps/prep for interview
- Attend relevant workshops for researchers eg job apps/interview prep

Control (ability to take control and make decisions)

- Increase self-knowledge
- Attend Exploring Career Futures workshop
- Review work/life balance
- Seek support from Careers Network
- Investigate What Do Researchers Do?



Confidence (to pursue aspirations)

Skills Guidance Placements Employment

- Identify strengths
- Identify job entry routes
- Expand skills set
- Use social media
- Attend relevant workshops for researchers
 Careers Network

Putting the findings into practice

Concern

Use CAAI-UK in 1:1 and small groups

Compulsory careers session in Schools

Online CAAI-UK

Control

Train PGR Career Ambassadors

Encouragement to engage with career development earlier

Curiosity

Promote tools to investigate wider options

Confidence

1:1 Career appointment provision

Highlight wider options



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Resources:

Savickas, M.L. (1997) "Career Adaptability: An Integrative construct for Life-Span, Life-Space Theory". *The Career Development Quarterly.* 45(3) :247-259

Savickas, M.L. and Porfeli, E.J. (2012) "The Career Adapt-Abilities Scale: Construction, reliability and measurement equivalence across 13 countries)

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Wright, T. and Frigerio, G. (2015) <u>The Career</u> <u>Adaptability Pilots Project</u>. York: the Higher Education Academy

Chartered Accountants Benevolent Association (CABA) https://www.caba.org.uk/