

## PGR Tips on creating luck in your career

A popular career planning theory developed in recent years is called [planned happenstance](#). It acknowledges the role of luck and serendipity and rejects the notion of always being able to plan for the perfect job. Career decisions are very complex and incorporate a range of pro and re-active decisions. Planned happenstance is about being open to opportunities and being able to seize them. It is not about passively waiting for an opportunity to present itself, but about working to increase the likelihood of such an opportunity to arise. How can you increase this? The following tips incorporate some from the [Salford PGR careers blog](#) and the [Berkeley website](#).

### Allow chance to play a role in your career

Look at your interests to get an idea of where chance might play a role and how you might plan for this. Visit a careers adviser who can help you explore your ideas and work with you to assimilate what may seem like quite disparate skills and interests. Allowing chance to play a role will require you to take a pro-active approach and be open to opportunities when they arise.

### Make opportunities happen

When people attribute their career to luck, it is likely that they put themselves in a position to be lucky. When someone has done work experience which lead to a job offer, this may feel lucky, but working for nothing contributed to the opportunity. Volunteer in an appropriate organisation- this will both allow you to develop and evidence skills and develop different networks.

### Networking

Lucky breaks happen to people who make themselves known. It is not just about how many people you know (or know you) but who know about your abilities and interests. Talk about your interests and experiences and make an effort to articulate your dreams and ambitions. Networking is a reciprocal process, so consider how you can be of help to others as well.

### Follow your interests

Make sure you are as informed as you can be, both about the substance of your interest(s), events, opportunities and people. If you're really excited about something, explore it. Use your curiosity to talk to new people. Don't be intimidated by people who seem important.

### Capitalise on your unique combination of experiences and skills

What would be more satisfying in a job than combining several of your interests and strengths? To understand your strengths you'll need to cultivate self-awareness.

### Keep an open mind

To allow chance to play a role it is vital to accept some ambiguity. For best results, be open to discovering things about yourself. Don't foreclose on an idea before you've given it a chance. Let yourself imagine how you could channel an interest; be open-minded and willing to consider 'crazy ideas'. Talking to people, you'll find that many [career stories](#) are not that linear.

### Be prepared to take risks

Be willing to experiment, learn new skills, make mistakes, and change your mind. Exploring your interests will take time and energy, but you will be pursuing your dream... When things happen differently from what you expected, ask yourself, could this be an opportunity in disguise?