

CAREER DOCTOR



Paul Mullan

Q I am planning a career change. I am a qualified automobile electrician but working as a health care assistant for the past three years because of Irish work visa regulations. I am 30 years old and would like to start a third-level course that has high job opportunities especially for graduate training. I am interested in quantity surveying or commerce with a major in information systems. Which of the two would give me better prospects for my plan?

A A career change can be an exciting time, offering new learning opportunities, challenges and fulfilment to those who research and plan this phase carefully. A rushed approach, however, can often leave you back where you started in a career you do not enjoy. Too many people find themselves at a career crossroads with their desperation dictating the next move and they jump into a career or career direction as a means of escaping their current career dissatisfaction.

My advice is to make sure you have researched your next move carefully. Assuming that you have completed your research and you have decided against a career with your trade or in the healthcare sector, then education is a good vehicle to help you achieve your goal of a change in career. You must be careful not to use education as an alternative escape mechanism from your current predicament. Education will require huge time and financial commitments so be prepared for this.

Both educational options you have outlined currently offer excellent job opportunities as the construction sector and IT/business sectors are buoyant. You will find that organisations in both sectors will offer various forms of graduate training. I recommend you ask yourself which of these options offers greater interest and not which offers greater opportunities. Most sectors are experiencing skills shortages at present and offer excellent opportunities but I believe it is easier to carve a career in an area you are passionate about with little opportunities than an area you are not passionate about with a lot of opportunities.

Of the two options quantity surveying is the more focused educational choice whereas commerce/IT can lead to a variety of potential career paths. Both will offer the training and opportunities you desire so choose the course that you have greater interest in.

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