

How to be more magnet-like in your career

There's some surprising brilliance to borrow from magnets for your Squiggly Career.

How they attract, repel and hold opposites together can help you to get more of what you want, replace what you don't and question where you're choosing between two opposite tensions that you could bring together.

Start with our magnet quiz

1. What do you want to attract more of?

- ☐ People - new connections or a new audience
- ☐ Possibilities - career options to explore
- ☐ Projects - different work to get involved in

2. What do you want to repel?

- ☐ People - relying on the same familiar connections
- ☐ Possibilities - career directions that aren't for you
- ☐ Projects or idea - work you'd like to do less of

3. Which tension feels most familiar in your week?

- ☐ Your day job versus your development
- ☐ Your future career versus your present flexibility
- ☐ Being nice versus being clear

Turn your answers into action

1. Attract more of what you want

Sharing what you're interested in helps people spot opportunities and make connections for you.

This could look like: telling someone what you'd like to explore and asking: "Do you know anyone who...?"

2. Repel and replace

Doing less of something doesn't always mean stopping altogether. Finding a different way can help you stay helpful whilst making more space for what matters.

Try choosing one swap this week: swap a familiar conversation for someone with a different perspective, a career option you feel you "should" pursue for one you're curious about, or create a helpful how-to to answer repeated questions.

3. Borrow brilliance to manage your tension

In our careers, we sometimes assume two things can't work together: our day job versus development, future career versus flexibility, or being nice versus clear.

Looking for people who make both work can help you question that assumption and see what's possible.

Choose one of these tensions: who do you know who makes both work? Ask what helps them and borrow one idea to try.