



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**THE CAREER CHANGER'S
GUIDE TO DOING SOMETHING
DIFFERENT**



Dream big, discover your interests, chart your course

Career change can be daunting, but that shouldn't stop you from doing something different. At General Assembly, we've helped over 670,000 learners find meaningful work within the tech industry. Our Career Changer Roadmap is broken into six parts to help you take a confident leap of faith into a tech career, step-by-step:

1. VISUALIZE YOUR DESTINATION.

2. MAKE A PLAN.

3. SHARPEN YOUR SKILL SET.

4. BUILD YOUR PERSONAL BRAND.

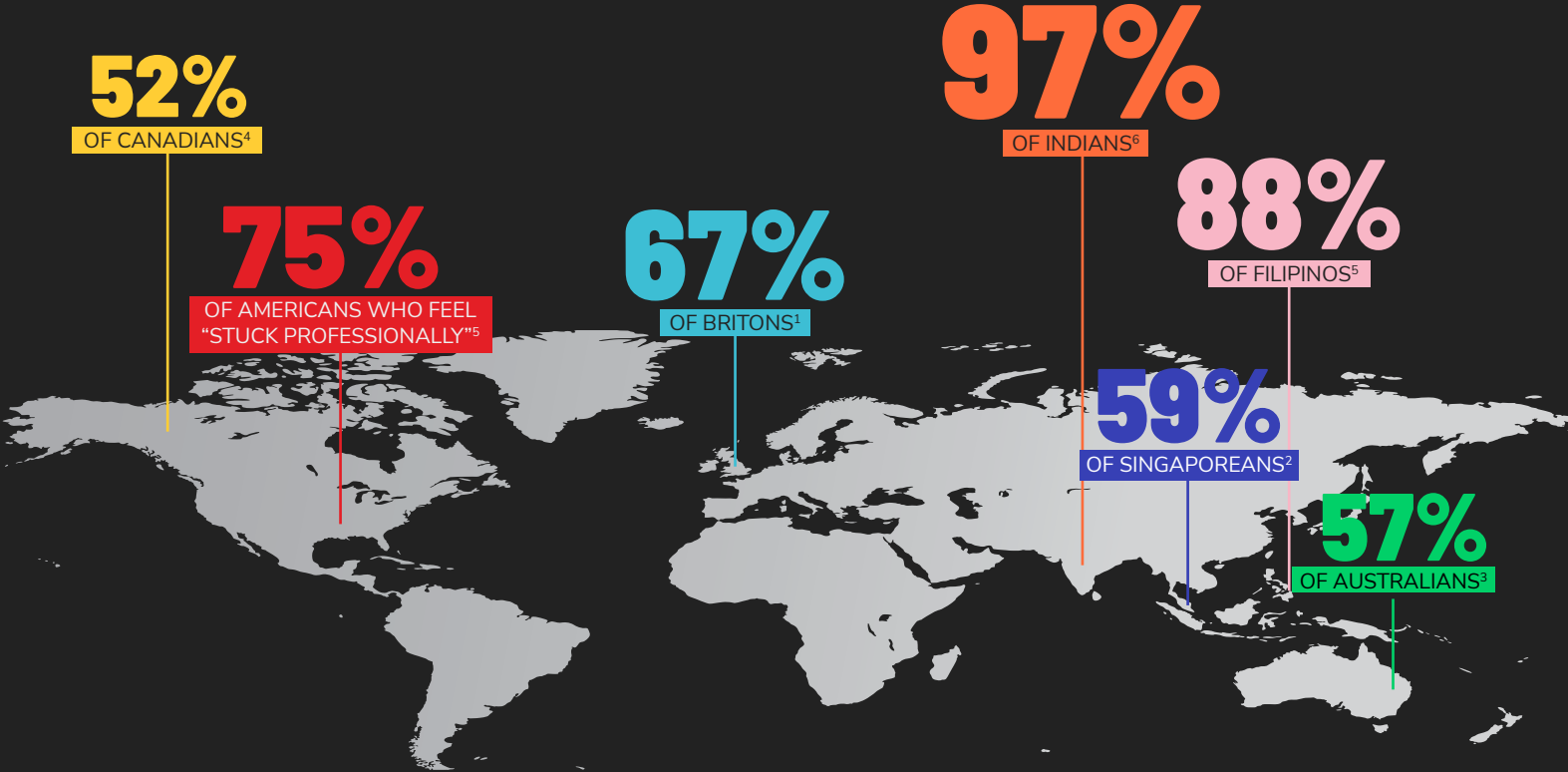
5. LAND YOUR FIRST JOB IN TECH.

6. SUCCESSFULLY ONBOARD IN 90 DAYS OR LESS.

More than just a checklist, this guide links to key resources for every stage of your career change journey.

CAREER CHANGE BY THE NUMBERS...

Around the world, people yearn for career change, including:



SO, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

→ You don't enjoy what you do.

You often think to yourself, "How did I get here?"
You're missing deadlines and your quality of work is slipping.

→ You don't feel like your work matters.

You're on autopilot and feel disconnected from what you're doing. You're discouraged because you don't feel like your job plays to your strengths.

→ Your job is the worst part of your week.

You're a weekend warrior, but by the time Sunday hits you're filled with dread and remain that way until it's Friday again.

→ You don't have a career path.

You look at your boss and realize you don't want their job, or any job in the company for that matter. In fact, you don't want a job at all; you want a career.

→ Your job is creeping into your personal life.

Stress has the ability to creep into every aspect of your life. Once work stress bleeds into your personal life, it's time to make a change.

→ You dream about a different career.

You have another interest that you wish you could pursue and you find yourself daydreaming about that possibility.

STEP 1: Visualize your destination.

WHERE YOU ARE:

Young, fresh, and full of dreams — how quickly fortunes can change. Perhaps you were happy in your field once, or you fell into your current line of work because it seemed right “at the time.” But people evolve, needs ebb and flow, and new goals emerge.



GET OUT OF THIS RUT BY TAKING ACTION:

- Ask yourself these five questions to help decide if you need a [job change or a career change](#).
- Consider the [signs it's time to break up with a toxic boss](#) — and find out how to do it.
- Overcome [career changer myths](#) and push past soul-stealing [career change lies](#). Mindset is the biggest barrier to success.
- Learn [how to think like a career coach](#). What does “success” look like to you?
- Learn about [different roles in tech](#) to determine where you might fit in.

STEP 2: Make a plan.

WHERE YOU ARE:

Intrigued by the idea of a career change, you grow more eager by the day. Like planning for a long journey, a career change involves preparation. To gain ground, you'll need to consider: What obstacles are in your way?



CREATE YOUR CAREER CHANGE ROADMAP:

- Start simple. Make a list of what you need to do to [get a tech job without a degree](#).
- [Gather tips](#) on portfolio building, job hunting, and interviewing from other career changers.
- Read [how a single mother of two changed careers](#), while taking care of business at home.
- Consider nontraditional pathways (like [an Immersive program](#)) for career transformation.

STEP 3: Sharpen your skill set.

WHERE YOU ARE:

With your destination in sight, you're ready to build the skills necessary to get from point A to point B. Expanding your skillset will equip you with the confidence necessary to pursue new opportunities.

GAIN EXPERIENCE AND RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE:

- Take an ["Intro To" course](#) to learn Excel, SQL, Tableau, or the basics of your chosen field.
- Sign up for [a full-time Immersive course](#) to transition your career in as little as 12 weeks.
- If career acceleration is what you're after, fill evenings with [part-time learnings](#) that build essential skills.
- In your spare time, work on projects that can [build your portfolio](#) (see Step 4!).
- Try an internship or entry-level position at one of the [companies that hire boot camp grads](#).



STEP 4: Build your personal brand.

WHERE YOU ARE:

Before travel, you select gear relative to the season. Though small, this step helps you feel more prepared to tackle the unknown. In today's job hunt, the right branding reflects the leveled-up candidate you've become.

SHOW THE WORLD HOW AWESOME YOU ARE:

- Start with [4 easy steps to market yourself and land a job in tech.](#)
- Check out this [ultimate guide to building your resume as a career changer.](#)
- Spin career change as a positive with these [22 tips to optimize your LinkedIn profile.](#)
- Meet the right people and learn [how to successfully network your way into a tech career.](#)



STEP 5: Land your first job in tech.

WHERE YOU ARE:

Finding a job in tech can feel like looking over a vast ocean. Exciting — but with a dizzying array of options to consider. Fortunately, you don't have to leap alone.



CONTINUE TO BUILD SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE:

- Sort through your options and [choose the right employer for your first tech job](#).
- Set your ambitions higher by adding [three skills to level up your tech career](#).
- Practice makes perfect. Prepare for — and nail — [your first tech interview](#).
- Interview with confidence by knowing [how to explain your career change](#).
- [Partner with a career coach](#) to explore your options and design your job hunt.

STEP 6: Successfully onboard in 90 days or less.

WHERE YOU ARE:

The stakes feel high when starting your first role after a career change. Introduce yourself to as many people as possible, ask questions, and lean on listening skills to get off on the right foot.

BECOME A FORMATIVE MEMBER OF YOUR DREAM TEAM:

- Succeed during your first week by [knowing the three Cs](#).
- Develop achievable goals. Grab a [template for writing your 90 day success plan](#).
- Prepare [your perfect elevator pitch](#) and [build your career support network](#).
- Invest in continuous learning. Take [evening and weekend courses](#) to wow them.





General Assembly has helped over 670,000 learners find their sweet spots.

Our programs help career changers with little to no experience transition into technical roles in software engineering, data, marketing, design, and product, enabling them to pursue a path toward higher paying salaries and more engaging work.

General Assembly is part of the Adecco Group, the world's leading workforce solutions provider and a Global Fortune 500 company.

Find your course at www.ga.co. Once you enroll, we'll match you with an experienced Career Coach who is invested in your success every step of the way.

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RESOURCES:

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