CareerReady

Sample report Sample Learner

WHAT THIS REPORT FOUND OUT ABOUT SAMPLE · EXPLORING OTHER CAREERS

You keep asking why until things make sense. You do best with the living, natural world. You want a balance of certainty and upside.

That mix is why these four careers came up, and not others. Here is what sits behind it.

Sample, you keep asking why until things make sense. Your top match is Marine Biologist.

WHAT THIS IS BUILT FROM

HOW YOU WORK

Asking why

You keep asking why until things make sense.

WHAT YOU BRING WITH YOU

Asking why

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

WHAT YOU WANT FROM WORK

Steady income
Flexible hours
Remote work
Working alone
Room to grow

You chose a balance between income security and upside.

YOUR FOUR CAREERS

1. **Marine Biologist** — STRONG FIT
2. **Environmental Scientist** — STRONG FIT
3. **Agricultural Scientist** — GOOD FIT
4. **Botanist** — GOOD FIT

HOW THIS REPORT IS LAID OUT

01 — Your assessment
Who you are at work and your four careers.

02 — Your plan
Your next moves and what to try.

03 — Making the move
How to change career without gambling your income.

Your first move: try the Marine Biologist task this week.

Your top four, side by side

The four careers that fit you best, with what each one is, what it pays to start and how likely you are to find work. The pages after this one take each career in turn.

Career	What they do	Starting pay estimate	Job demand	Study and APS
1. Marine Biologist Strong fit	Marine Biologist: a career in Science.	R13,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate (On 1 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32
2. Environmental Scientist Strong fit	Environmental Scientist: a career in Science.	R14,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate (On 1 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32 to 34
3. Agricultural Scientist Good fit	Agricultural Scientist: a career in Science.	R20,000 - R24,000 a month	High (On 3 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 4 years. APS 32
4. Botanist Good fit	Botanist: a career in a field that fits your answers.	R18,000 - R25,000 a month	Low (On 0 of 3 DHET lists)	Study: 3 years. APS 32

Pay figures are estimates from named salary surveys. Job demand comes from the DHET high-demand lists and Stats SA where they cover the career.

01

SECTION 1 OF 3

What your assessment found

How you work, your marks and the four careers that fit you best.

For: Sample

Who you are at work

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

Your personality at work

Thinking

Asking why

You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense.

Helps: Marine Biologist, Environmental Scientist, Agricultural Scientist, Botanist (asking why helps you investigate living things and test explanations).

Work simulations

> Choosing a work lifestyle You chose a balance between income security and upside.

Your four matches are on the cover.

Your work lifestyle

Your actual choices; working conditions depend on the employer, not just the job title.

Your choice	What it means for the work
Income stability A balance of certainty and upside	Compare salaried and contract offers rather than assuming either suits you.
Working hours A mix of fixed and flexible hours	Ask about set hours; releases, incidents or support cover may extend the working day.
People contact and location Hybrid work	Ask how often the team is on-site; a hybrid arrangement is not guaranteed.
Working alone or in a team A mix of solo and team work	Try both the focused task and explaining its results to another person.
Pace and pressure Moderate stretch	Compare ordinary weeks with busy periods before judging the pace.

1. Marine Biologist

Strong fit

STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R13,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate On 1 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Marine Biologist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you:
Marine Biologist is in your top four because your lifestyle choices fit what the work demands more closely than most careers.
How you work: you stay curious and keep asking why; this work rewards curiosity.
Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for: You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

Entry R13 000 to R18 000

Mid career R25 500 to R48 500

Experienced and senior about R59 500

Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R13,000 - R18,000 a month. PayScale early-career average; WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890.
Mid career (about 5 years)	R25,500 - R48,500 a month. WageIndicator, biologists, botanists and zoologists, after 5 years of service, 2025.
Experienced and senior	up to about R59,500 a month. top of the WageIndicator range for this occupation group, 2025.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2026 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025
Demand	It was on the DHET high-demand list in 2020 but is not on the latest one (2024). It was once a scarce skill, so we rate it Moderate rather than Low. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Marine Biologist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).
- **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.
- **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

- **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).
- **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.
- **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Who gets hired: what employers advertise

- **Conservation Officer (on reserve), CapeNature:** A National Diploma in Nature Conservation, or an equivalent NQF 6 qualification in a nature conservation field.
- **Advertised pay:** R42,542 to R49,132 a month (advertised range, negotiable within it; a 2026 advert, not a guaranteed starting salary). Advert
- **Field Ranger, CapeNature:** Grade 12 and at least 2 years of experience, with an emphasis on protected areas and estuary, coastal or marine environments.
- **Advertised pay:** R19,754 to R22,715 a month (advertised range in a 2026 advert, not a guaranteed starting salary). Advert

These are single employer adverts, shown as examples of what is asked for, not a count of jobs. Confirm entry rules with each institution before you apply.

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc with Marine Biology major (Faculty of Science)	University of Cape Town	UCT own scoring: Faculty Points Score at least 550 of 800 (not APS)	Confirm with the institution	Roles vary; pay estimate R13,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Zoology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R13,000 - R18,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Cape Town

• **BSc with Marine Biology major (Faculty of Science)** · UCT own scoring: Faculty Points Score at least 550 of 800 (not APS) · Maths 70% or higher; Physical Science 60% or higher; non-NSC applicants need Chemistry for Marine Biology · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

University of Pretoria

• **BSc in Zoology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

Week 1: free, under an hour.
Fill a clear glass with tap water and add a pinch of salt; fill another without salt. Drop a small piece of the same food (e.g. a grape) in each and record whether it floats or sinks, then explain what salt does to water. Write three questions a marine biologist might ask about sea life from this.

2. Environmental Scientist

Strong fit

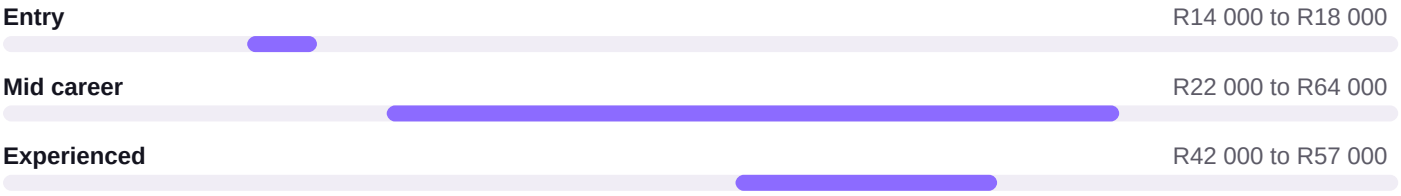
STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R14,000 - R18,000 a month	Moderate On 1 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 to 34 degree routes listed

What the job is: Environmental Scientist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you:
Environmental Scientist is in your top four because your lifestyle choices fit what the work demands more closely than most careers.
How you work: you stay curious and keep asking why; this work rewards curiosity.
Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for: You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH



Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R14,000 - R18,000 a month. PayScale entry-level average; WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890.
Mid career (senior scientist)	R22,000 - R64,000 a month, typically about R38,000. PayScale senior environmental scientist, 6 profiles, Mar 2026.
Experienced	about R42,000 a month on average, up to about R57,000. PayScale experienced environmental scientist, 13 profiles, Feb 2026.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2023 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025 · PayScale senior 2026
Demand	It is on the latest DHET list (2024) but was not on the 2014 and 2020 lists. Employers now report a shortage, but it is too new to call it long-term high demand. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Environmental Scientist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management · Southern African Wildlife College

- **Entry rule:** APS 30 with Mathematics (31 with Mathematical Literacy); English 50%; Mathematics 40% or Mathematical Literacy 50%. Places are limited.
- **Length:** 3 years (years 1 and 2 blended online with two campus visits a year; year 3 is project-based work-integrated learning).
- **Leads to:** work with conservation and natural resource organisations such as SANParks and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
- **Next step:** further study; ask the college which qualifications accept this diploma.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

- **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).
- **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.
- **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

- **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.
- **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).
- **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.
- **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.
- **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.
- **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.
- **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc in Zoology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Ecology	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month
Degree	BSc in Geography (Geography and Environmental Science option)	University of Pretoria	APS 34	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R14,000 - R18,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32 to 34

University of Pretoria

• **BSc in Zoology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BSc in Ecology** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BSc in Geography (Geography and Environmental Science option)** · 3 years · APS 34 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

We currently list only University of Pretoria for this career. Ask other universities and colleges about similar programmes.

Week 2: free, under an hour.
Walk around your home or school for 20 minutes and list every type of litter or waste you see. Sort it into plastic, paper, food and other, count each, and suggest one simple change that would cut the biggest pile.

3. Agricultural Scientist

Good fit

STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R20,000 - R24,000 a month	High On 3 of 3 DHET lists	4 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Agricultural Scientist: a career in Science.

Why it fits you: Lifestyle: You want a steady, predictable income, and this career is usually built around a salary.

What to look out for:
You want to work remotely, which may be an issue because most of this work is done on site or in the field.
You lean towards indoor work, which may be an issue because much of this job happens in the field.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH

Entry R20 000 to R24 000

Mid career about R42 000

Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R20,000 - R24,000 a month. PayScale early-career agriculture specialist, 1 to 4 years, 12 profiles, 2025.
Mid career (5 to 9 years)	about R42,000 a month on average. PayScale agriculture specialist, 12 profiles, Sep 2026; the survey range is wide.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2025
Demand	It is on the DHET list of occupations in high demand for 2024 and was also listed in 2014 and 2020, so the shortage has lasted across surveys. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Agricultural Scientist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Agriculture · Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute (Western Cape Department of Agriculture)

• **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC with an aggregate of at least 40% (without Life Orientation); 40% in English or Afrikaans; 40% in Mathematics or 50% in Mathematical Literacy; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.

• **Length:** 3 years; you choose Plant Production, Animal Production, Plant and Animal Production or Cellar Technology.

• **Leads to:** hands-on plant, animal or wine-cellar production work.

• **Next step:** the page does not name a next qualification; ask the institute.

• **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BScAgric in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences	University of Pretoria	APS 32	4 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month
Degree	BScAgric (Faculty of AgriSciences)	Stellenbosch University	Stellenbosch own scoring: NSC average of at least 60% (not APS)	Confirm with the institution	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month
Degree	BScAgric in Animal Science	University of Pretoria	APS 32	4 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R20,000 - R24,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Pretoria

• **BScAgric in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences** · 4 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

• **BScAgric in Animal Science** · 4 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

Stellenbosch University

• **BScAgric (Faculty of AgriSciences)** · Stellenbosch own scoring: NSC average of at least 60% (not APS) · Afr or Eng L4; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L4 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

Week 3: free, under an hour.
Put a few dry beans on damp paper in two cups: one in light, one in a dark cupboard. Check after 30 minutes and again the next day, recording any changes. Write down which conditions you think help seeds start growing and why.

4. Botanist

Good fit

STARTING PAY ESTIMATE	JOB DEMAND	STUDY LENGTH	APS NEEDED
R18,000 - R25,000 a month	Low On 0 of 3 DHET lists	3 years	32 degree routes listed

What the job is: Botanist: a career in a field that fits your answers.

Why it fits you: How you work: You keep digging until something genuinely makes sense; in this work, asking why helps you investigate living things and test explanations.

PAY BY EXPERIENCE, A MONTH



Estimates, not promises.

Pay by experience: Entry	R18,000 - R25,000 a month. WageIndicator starting pay from R17,890; PayScale average about R25,000 across all levels.
Mid career (about 5 years)	R25,500 - R48,500 a month. WageIndicator, biologists, botanists and zoologists, after 5 years of service, 2025.
Experienced and senior	up to about R59,500 a month. top of the WageIndicator range for this occupation group, 2025.
What moves pay	Years of experience; the employer (government and parks bodies, consultancies, or private companies); your qualification level (degree, honours, master's or PhD); the city; and specialist skills such as GIS or environmental consulting. These are estimates, not promises. PayScale 2025 · WageIndicator (biologists, botanists, zoologists) 2025
Demand	It has not been on the DHET high-demand list in the surveys we checked (2014, 2020 and 2024), so we cannot call it a scarce skill. That does not make it a bad career; it means jobs are likely to be competitive and employers are not reporting a national shortage. No Stats SA figure for this career. DHET list 2014 (Gazette 38174) · DHET list 2020 (Gazette 43937) · DHET list 2024 (Gazette 50510)
Critical Skills List	No Critical Skills List entry found for this career.

How to get there

Your route in: your matric results were not part of this assessment, so no route below has been checked against them. Each route lists what it asks for. Compare that with your results or existing qualification, and ask the institution about credit for prior learning and mature-age admission where they apply.

Closest alternatives you can reach sooner

Botanist usually needs a degree. These are related qualifications in the same field with lower entry points. They lead to related jobs, not the identical one, so read what each leads to.

Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management · Southern African Wildlife College

• **Entry rule:** APS 30 with Mathematics (31 with Mathematical Literacy); English 50%; Mathematics 40% or Mathematical Literacy 50%. Places are limited.

• **Length:** 3 years (years 1 and 2 blended online with two campus visits a year; year 3 is project-based work-integrated learning).

• **Leads to:** work with conservation and natural resource organisations such as SANParks and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

• **Next step:** further study; ask the college which qualifications accept this diploma.

• **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · Nelson Mandela University

• **Entry rule:** Not published on the department page; ask the university admissions office for the current requirements.

• **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning at a conservation organisation or reserve).

• **Leads to:** nature conservationist, wildlife manager, field ranger, ecologist, environmental restoration, biosecurity monitoring or environmental education work.

• **Next step:** the one-year Advanced Diploma, then an Honours in Natural Resource Management.

• **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of Mpumalanga

• **Entry rule:** APS 28 or more, plus the diploma-entry NSC minimum; English 50%; Life Sciences 50%; Mathematics 30% or Mathematical Literacy 50%.

• **Length:** 3 years (year 3 is work-integrated learning with an employer).

• **Leads to:** work in the conservation sector: protected areas, nature reserves, game parks and natural tourist attractions.

• **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma, then postgraduate study.

• **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Diploma in Nature Conservation · University of South Africa (Unisa)

• **Entry rule:** Diploma-endorsed NSC; 50% in the language of teaching; 50% in Mathematics; 40% in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences or Agricultural Sciences.

• **Length:** Standard length not stated; online study, up to 8 years allowed.

• **Leads to:** conservation officer roles supporting resource managers, and work in ecosystem management, environmental education and ecotourism.

• **Next step:** the Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation.

• **Source:** read 5 Nov 2026

Qualifications at a glance

Level	Qualification	Institution	Entry requirement	Length	Roles and starting pay
Degree	BSc in Plant Science	University of Pretoria	APS 32	3 years	Roles vary; pay estimate R18,000 - R25,000 a month

Each qualification is listed once per institution. Entry requirements use each institution's own scoring and are not converted into APS.

Every way in · APS 32

University of Pretoria

• **BSc in Plant Science** · 3 years · APS 32 · English L5; Maths L5; Physical Sciences L5 · Confirm the entry requirements with the institution link

We currently list only University of Pretoria for this career. Ask other universities and colleges about similar programmes.

Week 4: free, under an hour.
Collect three different leaves from plants near you (fallen ones are fine). Draw each, note its shape, edges and vein pattern, and group them by what they have in common. Write one guess about why each leaf is shaped that way.

02

SECTION 2 OF 3

Your plan

What your results add up to and what to do next.

For: Sample

What this adds up to

Your answers point to Marine Biologist, Environmental Scientist, Agricultural Scientist, Botanist. Your matric results were not part of this assessment, so entry requirements are listed for each route but not checked against you. Use the career pages to compare what each route asks for, and the closing section for the steps that fit your situation.

Your options, honestly

Test-drive your four careers

Week	Free task · under an hour	Reflect
[ ] Week 1 Marine Biologist	Fill a clear glass with tap water and add a pinch of salt; fill another without salt. Drop a small piece of the same food (e.g. a grape) in each and record whether it floats or sinks, then explain what salt does to water. Write three questions a marine biologist might ask about sea life from this.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 2 Environmental Scientist	Walk around your home or school for 20 minutes and list every type of litter or waste you see. Sort it into plastic, paper, food and other, count each, and suggest one simple change that would cut the biggest pile.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 3 Agricultural Scientist	Put a few dry beans on damp paper in two cups: one in light, one in a dark cupboard. Check after 30 minutes and again the next day, recording any changes. Write down which conditions you think help seeds start growing and why.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?
[ ] Week 4 Botanist	Collect three different leaves from plants near you (fallen ones are fine). Draw each, note its shape, edges and vein pattern, and group them by what they have in common. Write one guess about why each leaf is shaped that way.	Did you enjoy this? What part would you do again?

Your one-week action step

Try the Marine Biologist Week 1 task and note what you enjoyed.

Before you apply Confirm every requirement on the institution's official website.

03

SECTION 3 OF 3

Making the move

How to change career without gambling your income.

For: Sample and the people who depend on you

Changing career is not a leap you take blind. It is a plan you can test, price and stage so your income is never the thing at risk.

Well done.
Looking at a change on purpose, with a working life behind you, is harder than drifting. you have put your next move on paper before you spent a rand or handed in a resignation.

What carries over

Your assessment shows what you bring to any job. We don't know your current role, so this table is built from how you answered, not from your CV. The prompts under it connect what you do now to Marine Biologist.

Skill	What you showed	How to prove it
Analytical questioning	You show this in how you answered: getting to the cause of a problem instead of patching the symptom.	Have an example ready: a problem where your questions found the real cause. Use it in applications and interviews for Marine Biologist.

Add what your current job proves. Write one line for each:

What you do in a normal week
list the tasks, then circle the ones Marine Biologist also needs, such as managing people, reporting, handling clients, budgets, or learning systems.

A result you can point to
money saved, people trained, a process fixed, a target beaten. Numbers make a career change believable.

What you will have to learn from scratch
be specific. This becomes your study list.

Who vouches for you
a manager or client who can say you deliver, even in a different field.

Study while you keep earning

Part-time and evening programmes
many universities and colleges offer them. Ask about the Marine Biologist route specifically.

Distance learning
study at your own pace with providers such as Unisa, and check the exact programme is accredited for the registration Marine Biologist needs.

Short courses and certificates
a quick way to test the field and prove commitment before a full qualification. Confirm employers in the field recognise them.

Credit for what you know
ask about Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Experience can shorten a programme or replace an entry requirement.

If you already hold a degree
ask about a postgraduate diploma, a conversion programme, or credits for modules you have passed.

Employer help
ask HR about study leave and study assistance before you assume you must go it alone.

Your matric results and entry

Your earlier results do not disappear. Many programmes still ask for specific subjects or an APS, and your career pages show the entry marks for each route. If your results fall short or you have been out of school for a long time, ask the institution about: mature-age admission (usually for applicants 23 and older), RPL, bridging or extended programmes, or rewriting subjects through the DBE Second Chance Matric Programme. Each institution has its own rules, so ask in writing.

Your money runway

A runway is how long you can live on your savings if your income drops. Work it out before you commit:

Add up your essentials
for one month: rent or bond, food, transport, insurance, debt repayments, school fees.

Multiply by the months you would earn less
three to six is a common cushion for a switch with a gap, less if you keep a job while studying.

Add the cost of the switch
fees, books, equipment and travel for the Marine Biologist route. Ask the institution for the full figure.

Subtract what you can keep earning
part-time work, a reduced-hours agreement, or a side income.

The answer tells you whether to resign, go part-time or keep studying at night. Keep the job until the plan survives this arithmetic.

Funding to check

NSFAS
NSFAS funds study at public universities and TVET colleges for South African citizens. The latest published limit is a household income up to R350,000 a year (R600,000 with a disability). It generally supports a first undergraduate qualification, so if you already hold one, check whether you still qualify on nsfas.org.za.

More funding and study options
the government's National Career Advice Portal lists bursaries, loans and institutions.

Other options
employer study assistance, SETA learnerships or skills programmes in some sectors, and student loans from banks. Compare the repayment terms before you sign.

Test it before you leap

Spend 90 days finding out whether Marine Biologist suits you as a Marine Biologist would live it, not as a job title. Do the four weekly tasks in Part 2, then add:

- **Job-shadow** someone who works as a Marine Biologist for a day, or ask for a 20-minute conversation. Ask what surprised them and what they would do differently.
- **Run a side project** that uses the core skill: a small piece of work for a friend, a volunteer role, or a short online project. It gives you evidence for your CV.
- **Talk to three people** in the field, including someone who changed career into it.

CareerReady

A staged plan

Months 1 to 3
test the field, price the route, and confirm entry requirements and deadlines.

Months 3 to 6
apply, line up funding, and agree study time with your employer if you can.

Months 6 to 12
start part-time or distance study while you earn, and build the portfolio.

Then decide
move across, step down to part-time, or stay and use the new skill where you are.

The people around you

Partner and family
share the runway numbers and the staged plan, not just the wish to change. Agree what you will give up for a year.

Your employer
keep your options open. Telling your manager too early can cost you; ask HR about study assistance quietly first.

A compass, not a verdict.
This report shows where your answers point today. It cannot predict outcomes or guarantee a place or a job, and it does not replace advice from the institution or a careers counsellor. Confirm every requirement and cost before you commit.

The choice is yours.

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