

[<<back to homepage](#)

There is an implicit rule that every adult has a full time job.
Some of the most relaxed, interesting and happy folks I have met do not have one.

The goal of this doc is to present alternatives¹ to popular assumptions about career. Or, more harshly, to [bullshit jobs](#) & contributing to the materialistic culture.²

Some propositions may sound not attractive at all.
This impression may change after you give it a try!
(e.g. after trying dumpster diving, the idea of shopping began to seem weird.)

Most of the things here aren't long-term strategies.
They are options of prolonged periods when one is not labouring.³

Feel free to contribute.
Similar [resources](#).

[Context](#)

[Money](#)

[Author's experience](#)

[Food](#)

[Dumpster diving](#)

[Other](#)

[Shelter and places](#)

[As exchange for a work/skills](#)

[Travelling](#)

[Sharing your space](#)

[DIY house](#)

[Squatting](#)

[Clothes, utilities](#)

[Information](#)

[Sources](#)

[BS](#)

¹Most propositions are directed to people without kids who have the luck living in the North.

²Sample of what I mean: 1) Materialism (doi:10.1080/15213269.2018.1484769). 2) "The best minds of my generation are thinking about how to make people click ads. That sucks." Jeff Hammerbacher (source: <https://www.bloomberg.com>)

³I am opposing "labour" to "work". Labour is an income-generating activity. If you are trying to convince people to buy shitty products you labour. When you help your family, build a local community, contribute to wikipedia or github you work.

Context

If you want to contribute to society you will find plenty of research-based advice on the [80,000 Hours](#) website.

The goal of this doc is to present short term alternatives to what is currently understood as a career.

Money

There is an implicit rule that every adult has a full time job. Some of the most relaxed, interesting and happy folks I have met do not have one.

They often think in terms of *time affluence*. They asked themselves: What do I need? Is this specific type of signaling status important for me? They adjusted lifestyles accordingly.

Author's experience

Shifting from a regular, "consumer mode", may save you a lot of money. I worked for a bit more than a year for a median salary and saved enough money to have a 2 years long break.

I have the impression that when u start to save a lot it is better to have no exceptions to rules. In this way you won't think about alternatives (no thoughts like "can I buy this today?"). After a few weeks alternatives become almost invisible.

Food

Pay attention to the *street*! You might be amazed how many things u can find there. Not only food, but also clothes, shoes, furniture, tools...

Dumpster diving

- local facebook groups are usually helpful, u might find dumpster-mate there,
- [Dumpster Map](#), [another dumpster map](#),
- [Trash Wiki](#),
- in [Berlin](#) dumpster diving is partially institutionalised (hmu for other cities)

Other

- buy only the cheapest products per nutritious value,
- sometimes food grows on trees or on the ground (even in cities) research some gathering tips, [here is a map for city foraging](#),

- when you are in real trouble try to hunt for plates others have left. People in the West tend to leave plenty of food, some untouched, on a plate.

Shelter and places

The [biggest list of communes](#) (2020) I have found. Check also [this one](#).

As exchange for a work/skills

- some [hackerspaces](#), like [totalism](#), probably the least new-agey option,
- [Intentional Communities](#) (communities around the world),
 - [Diggers & Dreamers](#) (communes in UK only),
- [Workaway](#) (schools, families, farms, communities, various, u can also earn money there), [Servas](#), an NGO alternative, [wwoof](#) (working in eco villages, farms), and others: [here](#) list of them.

Travelling

When you are Travelling can be cheaper than a sedentary lifestyle:

- [Trustroots](#),
- [BeWelcome](#),
- [Couchsurfing](#).

Please, do not treat them as free hostels.

Some earn during travel. I heard that busking is especially profitable (info for particular cities on [nomadwiki](#)).

Van is of course a huge topic on it's own. Unfortunately I know very little.

Sharing your space

If you have space for your own, think about being host (see above). You can gain references and meet new friends.

btw, how about organizing events in flats? See [here](#) for some hints.

DIY house

I only saw a few DIY buildings and loved them.⁴ I know very little about this. For sure there are some open source projects like [WikiHouse](#).

Apart from googling you can visit [this yt](#) channel shows some DIY builders, they often give references to techniques.

⁴ Read [How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built](#) - the gist of vibe I am talking about is there.

[The Hexayurt Project?](#)

Squatting

I heard mostly messy stories from some squats with more than 10 members, and only a few good ones.

It seems that they are often a magnet for people who are hopeless and/or need professional help. Thus u might end up paying many attention hours to managing conflicts, protecting yourself and others.

- [cities](#),
- in the wild (camps for eco protests; caves (there are some occupied caves in Spain for example)).

Clothes, utilities

- street! There are any clothes there,
- ask friends, they probably have a surplus.

Information

Sources

[Nomad Wiki](#) can be very helpful with many things. Try to type the name of a city or scan thru main page.

[CommunityWiki](#) tips for managing communities etc.

BS

A lot of people interested in alternatives are quacks.

Know how to verify BS, if you are new check out [Calling Bullshit lectures](#) and Factfulness.

- free ebooks: [z-lib.org/](#) or [lib.rus.ec](#),
- alternative wiki reviewed by scientists: [Scholarpedia](#),
- free scientific papers: [sci-hub](#),
- file sharing: [fopnu](#), [soulseek](#), [nicotine](#),
- memorizing: [anki](#) (learn how to use it [here](#)),
- there are plenty of free or cheap online courses, like [OCW](#).