Remote Career Roadmap

A realistic timeline from zero experience to a stable remote income, in four stages.

Stage 1: Foundation (Weeks 1-4)

- Choose one lane (see the Starter Kit for options) instead of trying to do everything
- Complete one free course or tutorial series in that lane
- Set up your resume, LinkedIn, and a simple portfolio or work sample
- Research 10 companies or platforms that hire for this lane

Stage 2: First Proof (Weeks 4-8)

- Complete 1-2 practice projects, even unpaid, to build real samples
- Start applying consistently — track every application in a spreadsheet
- Ask for feedback after any rejection where it's offered
- Join one community (forum, Slack group, LinkedIn group) in your field for leads and support

Stage 3: First Paid Work (Months 2-4)

- Take the first reasonable paid opportunity, even if the rate is modest — it becomes your proof
- Deliver reliably and ask satisfied clients or managers for a short testimonial
- Raise your rate or apply for higher-level roles once you have 2-3 completed jobs to point to

Stage 4: Stability and Growth (Months 4-12)

- Build toward 2-3 reliable income sources instead of one fragile one
- Specialize in a niche within your lane where you can charge more
- Revisit your resume and portfolio every few months as your experience grows
- Set a review point every quarter: what's working, what to drop, what to try next

This timeline moves at different speeds for everyone — the stages matter more than the exact weeks. The goal is momentum, not a perfect schedule.