

Train up to scale new heights . . . but beware of the pitfalls

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ARE your talents being recognised? You might feel that you're capable of much more than is currently being heaped on your plate at work, but for thousands of people around the country's workplaces, advancement up the slippery career path is often agonisingly slow.

If you're feeling frustrated by a lack of pace in your working life, perhaps it's time to take matters into your own hands. The natural rough and tumble of office politics might not be delivering the impetus you need, and if this is the case it's worth considering undertaking a course of independent learning or vocational training to give your prospects a boost.

"If you're not enjoying your current job or don't feel that it's challenging enough, the chances are the opportunities and changes you're hoping for aren't just going to be delivered to your desk. If you really want something to happen, then in all likelihood you're going to have to provide the impetus yourself," said Myra Smallman, of training specialist SkillsTrain.

"It's the same no matter what industry you're in or which career path you'd like to be following. If you want to get ahead, you're going to have to get some extra qualifications under your hat." As an executive from a training operation, you'd hardly expect her to say anything different, but across its European network the SkillsTrain organisation has coached over a million students in career-boosting qualifications, largely related to technology. They're don't all walk straight into plum jobs, but the firm points to its hundreds of successes as evidence that you can privately train your way up the career ladder.