# How to assess your EVP and employer brand

When competing for talent, your EVP and employer brand can set you apart from the crowd and make your organisation magnetic to the talent you're looking to attract.

Getting your EVP and employer brand right is so important. They form an integral part of the north star that guides your talent acquisition function.

This guide has been created to help you assess whether your EVP and employer brand are working for you in the ways that they should be and will help you identify areas of improvement in your future strategy.





# The difference between EVP and employer brand

The concepts of EVP and employer brand are often lumped together in conversations about talent acquisition. But they are actually two different things that work together to create unforgettable purpose-led candidate experiences.

### **Your EVP**

Your employer value proposition is the articulation of what you stand for as an employer. It's more than just a list of benefits, it captures the whole proposition. It helps you express what you offer as an employer, and perhaps more importantly, what you expect back from talent in return.

Some call it your "people promise", some call it your "people deal". Fundamentally, it's the messaging framework that guides all your employer communications.



#### Your employer brand

This is your reputation as an employer. Even if you've never formalised an employer brand, you still have one – its how your organisation is perceived by talent, both internally in your business and externally in the market.

A formalised employer brand will detail how your EVP is brought to life visually. It's the look and feel of your EVP.

# STEP ONE: Assessing your EVP

We believe there are four critical success factors that you need to measure your EVP against. Your EVP must be authentic, relevant, unique and inspirational. The following slides will show you some maturity models aligned to each of these success factors to help you self-evaluate your EVP.





## Your EVP's authenticity

Your employer value proposition needs to be truly representative of the experience that your current employees have. If it's not, you might attract great talent, but they'll leave as soon as they realise that what you promised, is not the reality.



Your EVP consists of a list of benefits and was created by a member of the HR team.

Your EVP incorporates your organisation's values, and the wider People team was consulted in its creation.

Your EVP incorporates your organisation's values and was also based on feedback from an employee survey.



Your EVP incorporates values and behaviours. It is based on employee feedback from Leadership team focus groups.

Your EVP is reflective of the total experience of working at your organisation. You engaged with leaders, managers and employees in focus groups when creating it.

## Your EVP's relevance

Your employer value proposition has to speak to the passive talent that you are looking to attract, who don't currently know that they would be a good fit for your organisation. Creating a relevant EVP can only be achieved by using insights gathered from external research.



Your EVP was only created using internal data.

You did some research on Glassdoor which informed your EVP. You conducted Glassdoor research, and external surveys and polls to inform your EVP.



You did external research including looking at industry news and trends which informed your EVP.

You interviewed relevant talent working at competitors to understand what and how they perceive your organisation which informed your EVP creation.

## Your EVP's uniqueness

A key goal of your EVP is to differentiate your organisation from your business and talent competitors. Consider how well your proposition does this using the scale below.



You did not conduct any competitor research when creating your EVP.

You looked at the career sites of your business competitors to differentiate your EVP.

You looked at the career sites of your business and talent competitors to differentiate your EVP.



You reviewed the Glassdoor and social reputations of your business and talent competitors to differentiate your EVP.

You translated your competitor research findings into insights which you used to identify a niche in the market that you could occupy with your EVP.

# Is your EVP inspirational?

Your EVP should inspire the best talent in the market to join your business and reassure them that they will have a prosperous career with you - both now, and in the future.



Your EVP is not aligned to any business strategies.

Your EVP is aligned to your people strategy, but not your wider business strategy.

Your EVP is aligned to the current business performance but doesn't speak to where the business is going in the future.



Your EVP is aligned to the future business strategy and will be fit for purpose for the next 18 months.

Your EVP is aligned to the vision and mission of the organisation and is futureproofed and fit for purpose for the next 3-5 years.

## How does your EVP score?

If your current EVP doesn't score highly against the scales on the previous pages then your business might need to undertake a project to create a new proposition that's as authentic, relevant, unique and inspirational as it can be.

Here's how we recommend approaching a project like this:

### **Step 1: Research**

#### **Actions:**

- Leadership interviews
- Employee focus groups
- External talent interviews
- Competitor reviews

#### **Output:**

- Research report
- Identification of key themes

### **Step 2: Development**

#### Actions:

- Create an EVP positioning statement
- Create supporting messaging pillars



#### **Output:**

• A global messaging framework that can guide all people communications

### **Step 3: Validation**

#### Actions:

- All employee survey to get feedback on your EVP
- EVP refinement based on the feedback you receive

#### **Output:**

 A validated and signed off EVP and messaging framework

# STEP TWO: Assessing the activation of your EVP

Even if your EVP is as authentic, relevant, unique and inspirational as it can be, that work could be for nothing if your employer value proposition isn't activated in the right way. It's vital to ensure that your value proposition is truly lived and breathed by your organisation and that it doesn't just exist in a document that no one knows exists!







# How well have you activated your EVP?

Use the scale below to assess how well your organisation is using your employer value proposition to position you as a destination employer throughout the talent lifecycle.



Your EVP is written down in a document somewhere, but no one really knows it is there.

Your EVP has been used to inform your careers site messaging but isn't used in any other parts of your talent experience.

Your EVP has been used to inform your careers site messaging and also your wider attraction communications.



\* Your employer value proposition should be activated further across the entire talent experience that someone has with your organisation, but this is usually owned by the wider people team and not TA and so is not the focus of this model.

You are using your EVP messaging framework across the whole candidate experience from attraction to onboarding. \*

You've activated your EVP across the entire employee experience, and you measure its success and continually improve it.

# How does your EVP activation score?

If you scored below 4 on our assessment scale then you need to further activate your EVP to ensure that it's woven in to the entire part of the candidate experience that you control in TA.

Here's how we recommend approaching a project like this:

### **Step 1: Mapping**

#### **Actions:**

• Workshop how well your EVP is woven into your candidate experience at all touchpoints that candidates have with you from attraction to onboarding

#### **Output:**

• A Red-Amber-Green analysis of your EVP activation

## **Step 2: Prioritising**

#### Actions:

• Identify the high priority areas that require the most transformation and create project teams to tackle them.



#### **Output:**

• An EVP activation project plan

## **Step 3: Measuring**

#### Actions:

- Engagement metrics
- Retention metrics
- Performance metrics
- Quality of hire metrics

#### **Output:**

• Regular insight reports that will help you continually refine your activation

# STEP THREE: Assessing the activation of your employer brand

Your EVP comes to life in your employer brand, and this needs to be activated well in order to ensure you're getting the most out of your value proposition.





# How well have you activated your employer brand?

Your employer brand also must be activated well to ensure that it's working for you effectively. We've created the scale below to help you assess your current employer brand's activation.



You use your organisation's corporate or customer brand for communications to talent. You have an employer brand that is used on your careers site. Your EVP has been used to inform your careers site messaging and also your wider attraction communications.



\* Your employer brand should be activated further across the entire talent experience that someone has with your organisation, but this is usually owned by the wider people team and not TA and so is not the focus of this model.

You use your employer brand to create a consistent candidate experience from the first touch at attraction all the way through to the end of onboarding. \*

Your employer brand is used by ambassadors in your business to showcase the culture of your organisation.

# How does your employer brand activation score?

If you need to improve your employer brand activation, we recommend following the steps below:

#### **Step 1: Defining your brand**

#### Actions:

 Document your EVP and employer brand into a brandbook that can be accessed by everyone in your organisation

#### Output:

 Brand guidelines for consistent activation

### **Step 2: Prioritising**

#### Actions:

 Identify and prioritise employer brand activation touchpoints in your candidate experience



#### Output:

 A strategy and roadmap for delivering transformation

### Step 3: Templates & training

#### Actions:

 Create easy to use templates and training that empower your team to use the employer brand and become ambassadors of the brand

#### **Output:**

• A well activated employer brand

# Get a year of content ideas to help you activate your EVP and employer brand

You'll get:

- Over 150 post ideas
- An insight into the hero day conversations you need to join
- An easy way to plan your employer brand content for 2023
- Prompts to ensure you're giving your talent audience an insight into your authentic culture

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Everything we do exists to support our purpose of elevating people leaders in their role, career and function.

We want to make talent the engine room of every organisation. We want to change how talent acquisition and people leaders see themselves and their ability to drive business performance.

Whether you're new in role or in the midst of a transformation, Caraffi aims to elevate your capability, impact and reputation within your business and beyond.

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