

PLAYDAWN

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST | NOVEMBER 2026

# Job hunting after a layoff or a career gap

For candidates back on the market after a layoff or a career gap

On our 2026 calls, 66 of the 108 games candidates where we recorded it mentioned a layoff or a gap, so you are in common company.

## On your CV

- [ ] Real dates for every job, matching LinkedIn
- [ ] One line for the gap: what happened and what you did in that time
- [ ] Freelance work, courses and side projects listed like any other work
- [ ] Your latest shipped work near the top

## Your portfolio

- [ ] Add one small new piece if your last work is more than a year old
- [ ] Ask your old studio what you are allowed to show
- [ ] Keep a short write up for anything under NDA

## On the call

- [ ] Say it early, in a sentence or two
- [ ] Keep it factual, with no complaints about your last employer
- [ ] Move on to the work you want to do next
- [ ] Say how soon you can join. It helps you

## Questions you can ask

- [ ] How long is this project funded?
- [ ] Who does this role report to, and how long has the team been together?
- [ ] For contract roles: length, renewal, leave and insurance
- [ ] When is salary paid each month?

## Money while you search

- [ ] Set a range you can explain, based on what similar roles pay
- [ ] Short contracts can be a good bridge, once you know what they include
- [ ] Have your full and final settlement and relieving letter in order, or know their status

### About Playdawn

Playdawn hires for games, interactive tech and robotics, and has done so since 2016. We help candidates find their next role at studios in India and abroad, and candidates never pay us.

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