COMPANION TO: I GOT HIRED WITHOUT THE PAPER.

The Ask Before Ready Card

Who to ask, what to show them, and the one sentence that asks for the chance.

Shola's Tech Notes · sholastechnotes.com

You do not need to match the job description to ask for a chance. Fill in the three boxes before you speak to anyone, then log every ask you make. After a month, read the log and repeat what worked.

Before you ask

Who to ask

The person who could say yes:

What they are short of right now:

☐ A colleague confirmed this is the right person

What to show

One finished thing that touches their work:

Where they can see it:
hint a link, a demo, a screenshot

☐ I can explain it in two minutes

The one-sentence ask

I have built or done:

The chance I want:

My sentence:

☐ Said out loud once before I send it

Is this ask ready?

1. Can you name the one person who could say yes?
☐ Yes: Go on ☐ No: Ask a colleague who decides this

2. Is the thing you will show finished and real?
☐ Yes: Go on ☐ No: Finish a small version first

3. Does your sentence name the exact chance you want?
☐ Yes: Make the ask this week ☐ No: Rewrite until it does

Ask log

One row per ask. A no with a condition attached is progress, so write the condition down.

Date	Who I asked	What I asked for	What came back

Show the work. Make one ask. Then earn the paper.
Asking is a skill. Log every ask and the next one gets easier.

Reply to Tuesday's email with ASK and the role or project you want a shot at, plus who could say yes. I will write back with a one-sentence ask you can use.

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