

Study or work comes first?

"I didn't know whether I wanted to work in finance or marketing"

The life of a uni student is often analogous to keeping a dozen corks underwater; full-time study loads, part-time and casual work, social sport and maintaining some semblance of a social life are just a few of these 'corks', and hundreds of thousands of students endure this necessary evil in order to obtain the degree which will no doubt be a key part of future employment. But what if full-time employment opportunities arise while you are still studying? Is it more important to have a degree and little to no experience or half a degree and real-life experience?

Senior team coordinator at Hudson Recruiting Jaci Rogash, believes the most successful job applicants are those with real-world experience in their chosen field and that experience is a vital part of your CV.

"You need experience. You're not going to get a job if you don't have experience."

Rogash has not only found employment for people who are studying, but has balanced her work and education by doing a business degree by correspondence, and recommends the same for others.

"If you're given the opportunity to work in your chosen field, definitely take it (at the expense of study)."

In her experience, it is also far easier to fit study around work rather than the other way round. With



more flexibility found in the uni system rather than the workplace, there are more opportunities to alter your study load to continue your course while working.

"You can do subjects by correspondence and most employers will encourage you to continue to study."

Twenty-year-old James

Pickering was studying commerce at Melbourne before he got a job with Channel 7 as a sales assistant and didn't think twice about deferring.

"I wasn't really enjoying uni," Pickering said. "I wanted to move out of home and I didn't know whether I wanted to work in finance or

marketing so this way I could find out."

Pickering also believes that not having a degree is no hindrance to him.

"Down the track I want to finish it but there are people here who work full time without degrees and there is a skills set here that you just aren't taught at uni."

But simply jumping at any employment opportunity is not for everyone. Twenty-six-year-old Anna Palmos studied advanced graphic design at Central Business TAFE in Perth before working two years full time at both Red Bull and 96fm in WA. After being a part of the full-time workforce,

Anna decided to return as a mature-age student at RMIT in Melbourne, completing a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in advertising.


Palmos found that even though she had field experience, not having a degree hindered her chances of gainful employment.

"Even though I had the two years of experience and the advanced diploma, I didn't really have much that proved my experience, I didn't have that piece of paper to support that [experience] which stopped me from getting a lot of interviews."

Even the work Palmos was able to get was often one with no real future or long-term plan.

"In my area in Perth there were a lot of entry-level jobs but not a lot of progression opportunities as it was so competitive.

"I think it's a really good personal achievement, the confidence you get having achieved (a degree). Not only that but if I was hiring someone and saw that they had only completed two units of their course I would judge their character as someone who isn't willing to stick it out in the tough times."

Since completing her degree at RMIT, Palmos has become the marketing co-ordinator of The Comedy Channel and Triple One Hits on Foxtel. 

Jack Cannon

Carrick Open Day

Sunday 8 August 2010 | 12:00pm – 4:00pm



Docklands Campus

370 Docklands Drive,
Docklands, VIC 3008

CARRICK 

- Business
- Accounting
- Hospitality
- Dental
- Beauty
- Hairdressing
- Childcare
- Community welfare
- Tourism and events

Call now to book **1300 364 383**
carrickeducation.edu.au