

CAREER

Study - a reality!



Here's nurses from Midland who recognised the need for further study and completed the Wintec Advanced Cardiac Nursing paper.

STUDY - YOU EITHER LOVE IT OR HATE IT! SOME PEOPLE MAKE A CAREER OF IT... WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, THE WORLD OF WORK HAS BECOME STUDY ORIENTATED AND IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING AHEAD THEN WE PROBABLY NEED TO ACHIEVE, OR STUDY TOWARDS, A QUALIFICATION.

The benefits from study, extend beyond vocational; it challenges us, interests us and forces us to be disciplined with our time

There comes that mysterious meeting in life when someone acknowledges who we are and what we can be, igniting the circuits of our highest potential.

Rusty Berkus

I used to call myself an "anti-academic", I thought I could get by in my career without the theory and piece of paper - besides I was already too busy, lacking in energy, lacking in confidence (not clever enough) and didn't have enough money! These are common excuses to justify NOT studying.

However, there comes a point when, (if we are honest) we may need to "bite the bullet" and give it a go. Here are some tips for success:

- ¥ Choose a subject/qualification that interests you.
- ¥ If it's been a while since you've embarked on study, take small steps - you don't need to go for the highest academic qualification. Consider your own personal development as well, take something fun and easy to help you get into the swing of study, this could be photography or another language through a community course.
- ¥ Consider your preferred style of learning. Do you think you learn better in a classroom where you can discuss your ideas or would you prefer to do correspondence where you can reflect more and take your time. The latter does require good self-discipline.
- ¥ Weigh up the benefits - be honest with how much time you will need and what you can expect as a result, some qualifications may not necessarily equate to pay increases.

¥ Find help and support. Tutors usually want you to pass - they are there to help. Use other people who have studied - they can be great at critiquing your assignments.

Since taking on the challenge of learning, I gained a career which would not have been possible without study. Some lessons learnt from taking on a tertiary study "later on in life" (a mature student):

- ¥ It's not like school used to be, it's more supportive.
- ¥ The pass/fail scenario's may not apply - some tutors will give you an opportunity to resubmit a paper if it's not up to scratch.
- ¥ Technology has made it easier - wow, the internet is amazing for research. For one of my papers we also had a "chat room" so I had a cyber-space classroom of buddies.
- ¥ Once you start, and you stick with it, the satisfaction from achieving another level is so rewarding and I've been a good role model for my son.

We are very fortunate in BOPDHB that we have systems to support us in relevant academic study, such as the Advanced Study Fund and scholarships. I encourage you to take advantage of this support. There aren't many employers in the Bay of Plenty who are as generous.

Now is the time tertiary institutions are putting out their programmes (prospectus) for study in 2008- so it's time to get your head around it and realise that study is a reality.

You have to find it.

No one else can find it for you.

Bjorn Borg

Sarah Strong, Career Development Advisor