

Tertiary Study – Things to consider.

Congratulations – you have decided the type of course you would like to study. Here a few points which will help you negotiate your way through the tertiary system.

Which tertiary institution to select?

Consider ...

- The course that you want to study.
- The modes of study offered (distance education, on-line study, on campus study).
- The distance you will have to travel and where you will be travelling from.
- If any scholarships are available.
- The option of a third semester over summer (good to catch up a subject if you have to drop one earlier in the year due to work commitments).

What subjects to take?

Most courses will have a structured year-by-year schedule. You may also have some scope to select some optional units or electives. If you are thinking of transferring to the original course of your choice you have two main options including selecting subjects to maximise:

- **Credit** - Select as many subjects as you can that would have been the same as what you were studying in the course you missed out on – that way you should be able to carry them over.
- **Grade Point Average** - Select subjects that you will find easy (either because of your school results or because you are really interested in them) – this way you should be assured of getting a good enough Grade Point Average to transfer over.

How many subjects? (One, Two, Three, or Four)

- **One subject** may be good if you are returning to study after a long break, or you have a very heavy work schedule.
- **Two subjects** may be OK if you have a busy schedule with work but you are keen to progress. Also if you have had some recent experience and you know that you can handle the workload it may be suitable.
- **Three subjects** may be appropriate if you can't commit to the full four-subject workload.
- **Four subjects** may be appropriate if you can manage your other commitments well and you want to progress at full time rate.

How will I know what I can handle?

When selecting how many subjects make sure that you consider the following:

- **Weekly timetable:** may be a good opportunity to draw up a weekly timetable with hourly slots and write in your class, rehearsal and performance times, remembering to also include travel time and eating, sleeping, family time. Then see how much is realistically left over.
- **Likely Work Schedule:** you may not always know how much you will be performing, however, it is best to work out a strategy that will be compatible if you are. This may mean finding out in



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advance which subjects can be done off campus, or making contact with lecturers in advance to gain their support if you need to be away.

How will I afford to study full time?

- **Austudy entitlements:** Austudy payments may be available if you are completing an approved full time course. Check with Centrelink for clarification.
- **Dance scholarships:** If you have been awarded or are applying for a scholarship then you may also need to commit to a certain level of study.

Other tips:

- **Previous experience with study:** if you are new to study it may be best to think on the side of caution rather than taking on too much and then putting you off study forever. Alternatively if you are a perpetual student you may be comfortable taking on a near or full workload.
- **Cross Institutional Study:** If you have a heavy work schedule that will take you off campus, a possible solution is Cross Institutional study or Distance Education. For more information on these study modes see the "Cross Institutional Study and Distance Education Fact Sheets".

CHECK WITH STUDENT ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR PROPOSED ENROLMENT IS ACCEPTABLE!!