



Postgraduate Study Checklist

Are you considering further study? Ask yourself the following questions to find out if you are ready:

Why Do I Wish To Undertake Postgraduate Study?

Be clear about your reasons for undertaking further study. Is it to further your interest in a particular subject? Is it a requirement for your chosen career? For promotion prospects? To change career? Avoid undertaking postgraduate study because you can't think of anything else to do!

Am I Interested In Research Or Skill Development?

Postgraduate study can be completed in two ways, through coursework or research. When choosing to undertake a particular qualification, talk to staff at the institution to ensure that it meets your personal and professional needs, for instance what level and type of qualification will be best? Depending on whether you wish to build a career in research, academia or the corporate world, different paths will align with different postgraduate options.

How Do I Find Out Which Institution To Study At?

Look into courses at a few institutions for comparison. Attend Postgraduate Expos or visit relevant university departments if possible. If choosing a research degree, check out the institution and your research supervisor to make sure they meet your needs.

Can I Motivate Myself?

Postgraduate degrees are often demanding and require perseverance. If you are combining study with a job, then this will require even more effort. You will need passion and determination in order to continue to motivate yourself. This is especially relevant for a research degree, which is far less structured than a coursework degree and is often undertaken independently.

What Does My Industry Want?

Research how your study may impact your future employability and career options. Employers fill vacancies based on a range of criteria, one of which may or may not be a postgraduate qualification. Contact organisations you are aiming to work for to ask how they view applicants with postgraduate degrees. Check out relevant professional associations too.

What About Work-Life Balance?

Postgraduate study requires significant time investment on your part. Consider how this might impact on your family or social life. Investigate different modes of study to suit your needs i.e. full-time, part-time, distance?

Can I Afford It?

Investigate all available options to fund both your fees and your living expenses while studying. Find out if there are any scholarships which you might be eligible to apply for.

Will My Employer Support Me?

If you are thinking about undertaking postgraduate study alongside full time work, find out what study entitlements might be available from your workplace in support of professional development. You may need to negotiate study or exam leave during work hours.

When Should I Do A Postgraduate Degree?

There are no hard and fast rules about when to undertake postgraduate study. Some people go straight into it after completion of a bachelor's degree, whereas others commence it after a period of time in employment, looking after family or other commitments. It depends on the stage you're at with your career, the field you are working in and of course your personal goals.

How Do I Get My Postgraduate Degree Off To A Flying Start?

Find out about all university support services available and consider which ones to engage with. Develop a rough plan of skills you hope to develop during your study. And finally, enjoy your study and make the most of the many opportunities available to develop and grow as a person!

Contact the [Careers & Employment Centre](#) for more assistance with choosing postgraduate study...