Perfect solution for multi-talented mum

FOR a musician, artist, writer, teacher, mother, mum, or general enthusiast for creative work, the online University of NSW Master of Cross-Disciplinary Art and Design is a perfect fit.

“One of the things I love about online study is that it’s integrated into real life from the outset,” says Lisa Shah, 49, who fits into all these categories.

Delving back into study, some 10 years after finishing a bachelor degree in Creative Cross Arts at Griffith University, Lisa has been a very positive experience for the mother of five.

“I was in the process of completing a fantasy novel, with music as well as illustrations, and the kids had all moved out - I wasn’t being mum all the time. I thought this would give me a kick-start for something different,” she says.

“The course doesn’t take me out of the head space of where I am. The cross-disciplinary content is so relevant to what I do. I could study like this for the rest of my life.”

Studying online through a university some 1000km away from where she lives has also been a positive experience for the Gold Coast resident.

“There is a sense of intimacy doing it online – even though it might be a paradox,” says Shah. “You’ll be missed if you’re not participating, as there is direct interaction with the lecturer as opposed to attending a lecture with hundreds of people.”

Flexibility has also been a factor of the course that she has enjoyed. “I’m very project-orientated and work weird times of the day,” says Shah, who is enrolled in the course full-time, but likes having the option to drop subjects if she gets busy down the track.

Listening elements of online study to using social networking sites, she says: “If you’re comfortable in the online environment, you’re also comfortable with language and modes of expression to produce things online”.

Diploma in Law

The LEGAL PROFESSION ADMISSION BOARD in association with the LAW EXTENSION COMMITTEE of the UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY offers examinations and a program of study for those wishing to become lawyers.

- For the purposes of admission to the legal profession, the Board’s DIPLOMA IN LAW is equivalent to a law degree.
- There are 20 subjects in the Program which can be undertaken by weekday evening lecture or by external mode. Examination and tuition fees are currently $630 per subject.
- Students can commence the Program in November or May. Applications may be lodged at any time but must be lodged by 1 September to commence the Program in November or 1 March to commence the Program in May.
- There are two weekend schools run each semester at the University’s main campus near the Sydney CBD. These are the main focus of the external program, which is not a correspondence course.
- Students have full access to the University’s law school library and online resources such as legal databases and law reports.
- Examinations are conducted in March and September in Sydney, Parramatta, Canberra, Albury, Dubbo, Broken Hill, Newcastle, Armidale and Lismore.

www.sydney.edu.au/lec

Legal Profession Admission Board
Therapeutic Justice Assistance Program

Tips for studying - and living

EXCITEMENT and uncertainty are emotions postgraduate students may experience simultaneously when they make time in their busy lives to pursue the dream of further study.

Sydney University’s student support services head of counselling and psychology, Dr Philomena Renner, says people looking to take up further study next year will need to expect adjustments in all the areas of their life. Here are her tips for balancing study with the demands of work and family life.

Life and time management

PLAN for your whole life: study, work, social and family rather than putting your life on hold. Relationships are important and people will be able to be supportive if your time management includes quality, if not quantity of time spent with them. Be strategic and practical in managing your life. Be efficient with home duties such as doing one large shop per week, and seek support from family for peak times. Draw up a timetable that identifies university, work and family commitments.

Juggle work and study

KNOW your entitlements and ask in advance for leave when exams and major assignment are due. If you can, choose assignments that have relevance for your workplace. The university year goes in cycles of intensity so plan ahead for peak times.

Update your skills

TAKE workshops on being organised, managing stress, mindfulness, public speaking etc, or read the core materials. Workshops on time management and study skills will help you optimise time spent on assignments.

Network

BE proactive in seeking out and connecting with other students. Find a study buddy, or study group or a mentor.

Care for yourself

DEVELOP realistic expectations. Expect a bumpy transition – returning to study is an adjustment. Academic skills may be rusty and take some time to re-establish. You can re-learn them – get help from learning centres if needed.

Be kind to yourself regarding your grades. You may not have the same amount of time as other students to spend on assignments. Remember the pass marks will get you a degree.

Celebrate success. Plan and do things that give you energy.

For more information on registering as a student-at-law, frequently asked questions and an application form please visit our website:

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Telephone (02) 9338 3500 Fax (02) 9338 3555

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