

Careers

ON RIGHT COURSE FOR SUCCESS

A SHORT course is a common tool workers use to update their skills but there are more benefits to completing one than learning new things.

Career Confident director Helen Green outlines some of the added ways a short course can boost careers.

"Be realistic about their strengths and limitations," she says. "A short course does not make you an expert but can deliver benefits."

TEST THE WATERS

A short course can provide insight into studying or working in an industry, whether the jobseeker is a teenager or career changer.

"For instance, are you interested in data science or sound engineering but unsure whether you want to pursue a degree or postgraduate study in the field? See if the relevant educational institutions offer a suitable overview or introductory course," Green says.

A short course can also be the springboard to self-confidence.

"Recently, one of my clients wanted to transition from a trade career to a training-based role which was a great fit for him," she says.

"However, he was still in a mindset that he was not cut out for studying anything, based on experiences as a 16-year-old.

"Taking the relevant certificate IV

course changed his perspective and he has since embarked on further study successfully."

GET OVER THE LINE

Competition is fierce for many job vacancies but upskilling can be an advantage.

"Some of my clients had avoided changing careers despite being very unhappy as they thought this would require studying another degree or extensive postgraduate study," Green says.

"This is not always the case.

"With many people working long hours and juggling other caring responsibilities, cost and time matter.

"Depending on the occupation, a short course or certification can sometimes be enough to get you started in a new sector, especially when combined with related work experience, other credentials and transferable skills."

Including the completion of a short course on a CV also can show potential employers currency and commitment to ongoing learning, which are desirable characteristics in candidates.

MEET GOOD CONTACTS

Short courses open up networking opportunities, both online and in person.

"The most effective networking is face to face," Green says.

"Face-to-face short courses bring together a melting pot of people.

"Who might you meet during the tea break? A potential employer perhaps."

REJUVENATE YOUR ATTITUDE

Igniting a passion outside of work hours can improve confidence, efficiency or happiness.

"Imagine finding a hidden talent or interest that inspires you, makes you laugh, challenges you and adds to your life in some way," she says.

"This is as good a reason as any to give something new a try."

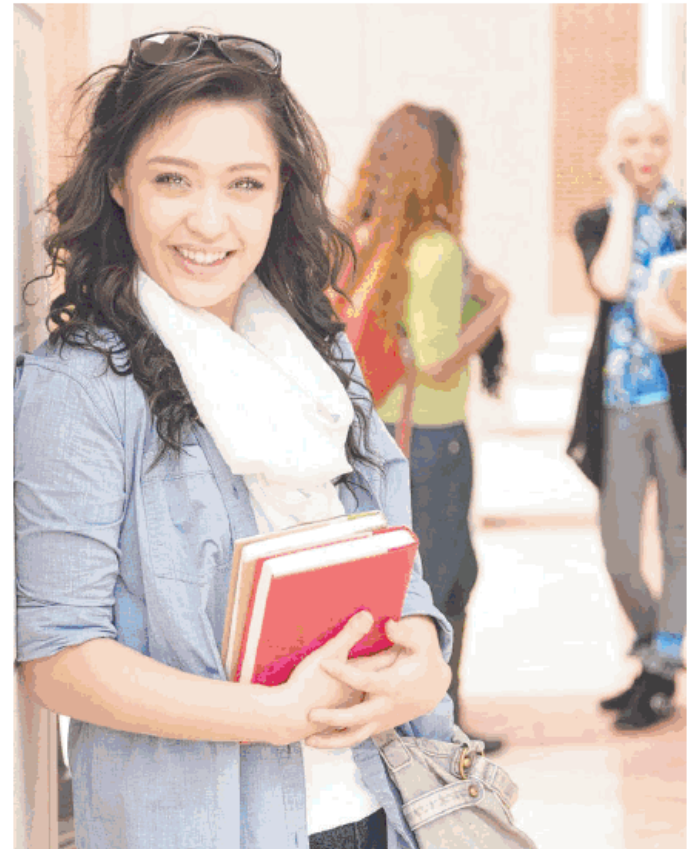
... BUT CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE

Enrolling in the wrong course can sap motivation, never mind being a waste of time and money.

"If, for example, you need to take a three-day course to meet an industry or employer requirement, this is very different to taking a short course for interest, or a three-month pathway course," she says.

Also research what prior knowledge is assumed, how the course is delivered and assessed, whether it is industry endorsed and the credentials of the provider.

"I know some people who have enrolled in courses marketed as introductory, when the content was challenging to follow without industry exposure," Green says.



SKILLS UPDATE: A short course can help workers make the transition into a new sector and open up networking opportunities.

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