

Further education advances career possibilities

With intimidating competition and an ever-evolving economy, it is important to refresh and update skills and knowledge to progress in one's career, which is often achieved through adding tertiary qualifications.



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While it may seem daunting to study part-time and climb the corporate ladder, most senior students do better than full time students. This is often because they are studying a subject they are passionate about and know how the course will set them apart in a competitive job market.

It is important to consider the tools required to excel as a business leader, many of which could be considered 'soft skills.' While every industry needs specialist skills, adaptability and communication skills set business leaders apart.

No matter what one's profession is, it is important to comprehend and internalise the basics of what makes a business tick. This knowledge will guide one in making sound decisions, while communication skills will ensure that one has the power to motivate and direct a team.

These skills can be honed both in the workplace and while studying. While many leadership qualities are learnt on the job, studying rapidly develops the depth and breadth of one's knowledge. The reality is, while one may feel completely qualified

to lead, one does not know what one does not know. A tertiary education exposes one quickly and efficiently to latest information and developments.

“While heading the MBA programme at our institution, I have had feedback from students on the impact of the curriculum on their corporate careers. Our students particularly appreciate the finance, economics and our personal leadership module. They also enjoyed and relished the institution’s unique unit on creativity and innovation, which creates a mindset that encourages these corporate learners to think differently about business complications and create solutions,” says Dr Corné Meintjes, senior lecturer and head of the MBA Programme at Monash South Africa.

“In terms of global MBA programmes, South Africa remains at the top of its game, as content is continually reviewed and regulated. While there has been global debate on the relevance of the MBA, it remains a relevant and necessary qualification in the African and South African business context. Recent exploratory research by Dr Millard Arnold, the executive director of the South African Business School’s Association (SABSA) illustrates that Africa still has a shortage of MBA skills, making the degree highly relevant for our continent.

“An MBA is the perfect choice for mid or senior managers looking to grow their careers, as well as industry specialists such as doctors, lawyers or even veterinarians who would like knowledge on how to grow a practice. However, an MBA is not the only option; one could also pursue a postgraduate diploma as a starting point. Depending on one’s industry, one could also weigh up the merits of attending a university of technology versus a traditional university. If one’s job requires practical skills, universities of technology offer excellent training in applied skills, while traditional university education focuses more on in-depth conceptual understanding. Both have their unique benefits.

“Ultimately, a tertiary education will always benefit one’s career and personal growth. While it may appear a daunting prospect, if one is passionate and driven, one will find the time and support to succeed,” concludes Meintjes.

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