Should I study further or not?

Students who are in the final months of their undergraduate years often ask themselves whether it is worth continuing with postgraduate studies. **Do not make this decision lightly!**

We work in a knowledge economy, where specialised knowledge and skills, have significant commercial value. Therefore, in today’s competitive job market it is often not enough to have only one degree. Having a postgraduate degree is a sign of perseverance and dedication to advance your knowledge. It shows that you are serious about investing in your future career.

Graduate students often get the opportunity to engage with scholars from different disciplines. While postgraduate students get the chance to rub shoulders with the leading thinkers in their field. It is very exciting to attend a conference and to listen to the big names in your field, to meet them and share ideas.

Postgraduate studies also provide the opportunity to change the direction of your career by choosing a postgraduate qualification in a different field such as a BA graduate who continue with a qualification in Disaster Management or Forensic Studies.

Completing a postgraduate degree can be very fulfilling and life-changing. Graduating with a master’s or doctoral degree gives students a strong sense of personal satisfaction. It is not just emotionally satisfying but can also be financially rewarding.

Are there any good reasons NOT to continue with postgraduate studies?

- **Yes**, if the only reason why you enrol for postgraduate studies is that you want to avoid entering the job market or if you are afraid that you will not find a job, it is better to invest more time in searching for a job rather than continuing to avoid entering the real world.

- **Another reason**, is if you have substantial debts after your undergraduate degree. Rather consider starting to work and return to university a few years later when you have paid off your study loans or study part time to avoid the potential loss of income during full-time studies.

- **Students who are uncertain** of the area of study in which they want to specialise can also benefit from entering the labour market because the experience they gain may help them to develop new interest and may take their careers in a new direction.

Making an informed decision if and when you embark on postgraduate studies can pave the way to a rewarding journey that satisfies your intellectual curiosity and passion for your subject.