

Career Development for Postgraduate Students

Directorate:
Counselling and Career
Development

July 2021



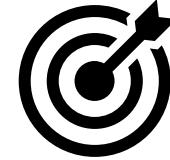
Define tomorrow.

Career Development: Perception versus actuality

How do you view your decision to study further?



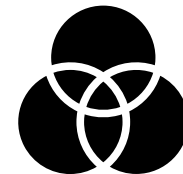
Are you aiming for a specific promotion?



Or is the intention of you postgraduate studies adding to your general career progression?



How certain are you about the skills that you will master within the post graduate qualification?



What are the skills and qualifications you require to be promoted and/or to feel satisfied?



Choosing a career

- The ***perception*** is that once you have chosen your career and you have completed your undergraduate qualification, your career problems have been resolved.
- The ***actuality*** is that once you completed first level of studies, you need further studies to gain skills, entry to certain levels of jobs or to be promoted.
- Therefore, it makes ***career decisions are a life-long process.*** You need to make different decisions at different times of your life.



Career development at postgraduate level

- Now that you are on postgraduate level, you need to reflect on your career and study journey.
- The following questions could help you:
 - What did you *hope for* when you started with your career journey?
 - Where are you *now*?
 - How do you *connect* where you are and your and your future career vision.



It is normal to feel ...

- *Disconnected* to your future career goals.
- *Scared* that you will not make it (i.e. being selected to masters, being employed).
- *Feels* like you are *stuck*, made the wrong decisions and you have no way out.
- You have *lost confidence* in yourself and you think you are not suitable person for the career.
- Future seems *uncertain* at different levels.
- The *reality is different* to what you have heard or envisioned.



Have you thought about ...

- What *type of opportunities* are you preparing for?
- What you can *do with the qualification* you have?
- What *type of contribution* you can make in the society with you qualification?
- How do you *start preparing* to be this person you want to be in the future?



Thinking about the future ...

- Its important to take some time to think about *what you need* in order to progress in your career.
- What type of qualification will be the *most appropriate qualification* for you? (i.e. will it be necessary to pursue a Masters or do you actually need to develop certain skills).
- What other things can *you do now* in order to prepare for the future? (i.e. volunteer work).



Career information

- What *type of information* do you need about managing your career development?
- Who do you need to talk to? Most often you may forget to think about your *lectures or even the modules* you are studying as a first line of career information.
- You need to think about *different sources of information*. You must also think about *what do you do with the information*.



Career information continues

- You need to be *clear on the purpose* of gathering career information in order not to lose your voice.
- You might end up *hearing other people's voices* and their views about your career development.
- You also need to be careful of information about *how you process* information about other people's fears.



Learn more

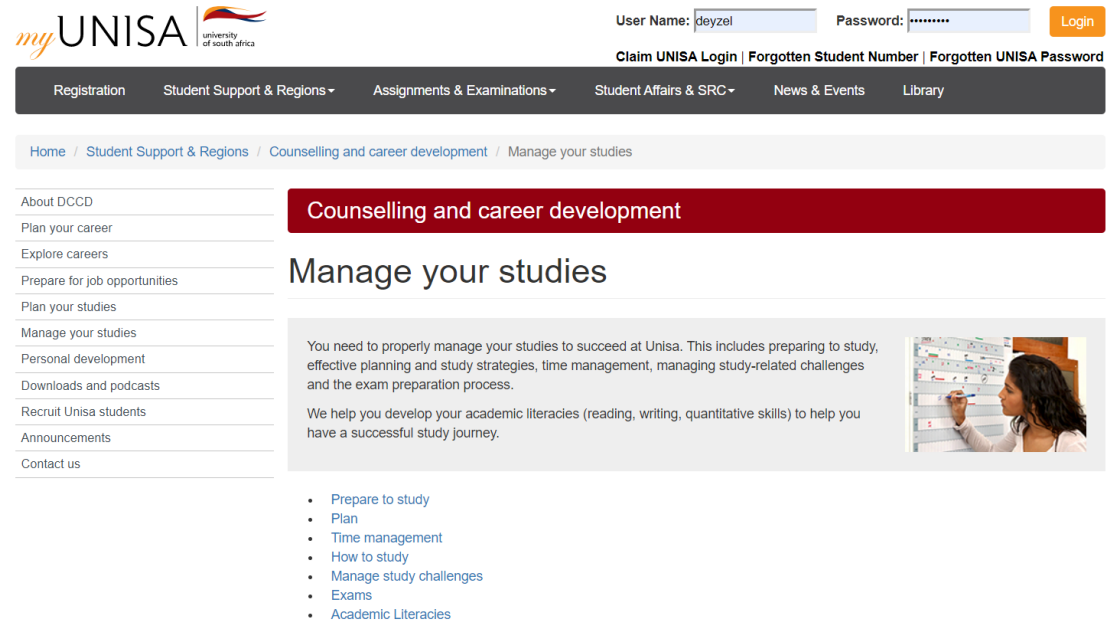
DCCD website

www.unisa.ac.za/counselling

Resources to help you manage your studies more effectively

Talk to us

- E-mail us: counselling@unisa.ac.za



The screenshot displays the myUNISA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the myUNISA logo and a user login section with fields for 'User Name' (containing 'deyzel') and 'Password' (containing '*****'), and a 'Login' button. Below the navigation bar is a dark grey menu with options: 'Registration', 'Student Support & Regions', 'Assignments & Examinations', 'Student Affairs & SRC', 'News & Events', and 'Library'. A breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home / Student Support & Regions / Counselling and career development / Manage your studies'. On the left, a vertical menu lists: 'About DCCD', 'Plan your career', 'Explore careers', 'Prepare for job opportunities', 'Plan your studies', 'Manage your studies', 'Personal development', 'Downloads and podcasts', 'Recruit Unisa students', 'Announcements', and 'Contact us'. The main content area features a red header for 'Counselling and career development' and a section titled 'Manage your studies'. This section contains text: 'You need to properly manage your studies to succeed at Unisa. This includes preparing to study, effective planning and study strategies, time management, managing study-related challenges and the exam preparation process.' and 'We help you develop your academic literacies (reading, writing, quantitative skills) to help you have a successful study journey.' An image of a student writing on a whiteboard is shown. Below this is a bulleted list of links: 'Prepare to study', 'Plan', 'Time management', 'How to study', 'Manage study challenges', 'Exams', and 'Academic Literacies'.





Thank you