DPP: A Student’s Perspective

Starting to think about your career and life after uni? The Diploma of Professional Practice, completed concurrently with any UNSW degree and open to all UNSW students, equips you with the workplace knowledge and practical skills to succeed in the competitive workplace environment through the inclusion of courses on the workplace as well as work placements. We sit down with UNSW Science student Juan Olaya who will tell us more about UNSW’s most innovative, new qualification.

Why did you choose to enrol in the Diploma of Professional Practice (DPP)?

My primary degree (B. Science) can be very abstract and theoretically based which means that you don’t get the chance to learn and practice hands on skills. Additionally, the things you learn in science are usually pretty restrictive. The DPP looked like a really good opportunity to learn practical skills that would be relevant to any field I wanted to get into as well as the fact that it helps you develop career specific skills that would help me get the best job possible. Finally, I knew having the Diploma of Professional Practice on top of my UNSW bachelor would look attractive on a resume to prospective employers and help me get a competitive advantage.

What have you gotten out of the Diploma of Professional Practice?

I am currently completing Introduction to the workplace (DIPP1112) and I have learnt some extremely useful skills in terms of the job application process. For example, I now know how to write a very competitive and professional resume, and I feel confident that I have the skills needed to approach an industry and identify job roles and job prospects. On top of that, we have been given the chance to network at social events, which has proven very enjoyable!

How have you found balancing your main degree with doing the DPP at the same time?

I have found that by developing a bit of a study plan around my subjects, I can quite easily accommodate the DPP. On top of that, the course which I am completing (DIPP1112) is nowhere near as content heavy or time consuming as my other core program subjects. The assessment tasks for the DPP are very practical, so they are quite enjoyable and no exams mean that there is less stress!
How do you think the Diploma of Professional Practice will help with your degree?
I am currently majoring in psychology in my science degree and I know that even just getting into a postgraduate course can be very competitive. Having a diploma on top of bachelor will undoubtedly help give me the edge over other postgraduate candidates. The DPP also teaches you skills on professional conduct which will be useful once I am working with senior members in the field. Finally, getting a job in psychology is very competitive which means the DPP will give me the edge over other candidates.

What kind of initial response have you been getting from your fellow students about the Diploma of Professional Practice?
A lot of my fellow classmates have said that they have found the class enjoyable. This is because the activities and things we learn are practical and help us in the real world. The classes and activities and well designed and planned out and our teachers are friendly and very supportive. In fact, I have a friend in psychology who recently secured a job in ABA therapy using the skills she had just learnt in the course.

Would you recommend the Diploma of Professional Practice to other students? If so, why?
Absolutely! Firstly, no matter whether you do psychology, commerce, law or engineering or any other subject, we go through university hoping that we will get a great job at the end of it. Unfortunately, most subjects don’t teach students how to be a potentially successful job candidate. Especially today where there are many applicants per graduate entry level job, it is as important as ever to stand out and prove effectively that you are the best candidate. The DPP does this in two ways: It gives you the skills you need to be the best candidate and the diploma itself would be an attractive edition to your primary degree and definitely give you an edge over other candidates. On top of these points, the DPP is fun and can be comfortably completed on top of your degree without adding extra time to it!

Follow Juan’s lead and gain the competitive advantage you need to succeed in the workplace today! To find out more, visit http://www.dpp.unsw.edu.au/.

Applications for the Diploma of Professional Practice are open now at http://www.dpp.unsw.edu.au/students

The DPP is your key to employability, open the door.

By Bettina Forde
DPP Ambassador 2012