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How would you describe your university experience?

My university experience was a journey of self-discovery. For the first time I was majorly outside of my comfort zone and surrounded by people with opposing views – it was the best thing that could happen for my self-development. It has involved failing some units and acing some others and now I am more resilient than ever and looking forward to future challenges.

How did you get into your field of study?

I was led into my field of study partly out of interest and partly because of the cadetship program I completed at an accounting firm. I got a role as a Trainee Accountant within the Big 4 so I was required to study accounting. I found accounting very challenging, it was an area completely new to me so I had to persevere despite wanting to give up several times.

Nevertheless, I found ways to have fun in my academic journey and chose subjects which I found very interesting. For one of my units I researched sex work in the mining industry, industrial relations in Japan and learn't how to code!

What is the difference between completing tasks (assignments) in university vs completing tasks for work?

The main difference I have noticed is that there is more at stake when completing tasks for work. I'm in the professional services industry so more often than not any task I complete is for the client or for statutory reporting purposes. So if I make a mistake it could have legal ramifications. As such, I find that there is more guidance provided and a review process for any task that I complete. On the other hand, during university most tasks were for me (and my grades) so if I was careless in my work or did not adequately prepare it was to my detriment and no one else's.

What are your recommendations/tips for future graduates?

My tip is to keep an open mind. If you work hard, opportunities will come your way. The 'hard work' bit can be grueling but it's such an amazing feeling to look back and know that you did all of that!

Besides a completed academic transcript, what do you think makes an accredited student a graduate?

I hope after graduating everyone gets a taste of working with others who are different from them – yes, I am referring to group assignments!

We live in a diverse world so it is important to learn to get along with one another even if we don't agree with their approach.