10 Tips for Postgraduate Studies

1. Do your research
   - Talk to peers, alumni, course coordinators and lecturers
   - Visit open days, Expos and information sessions
   - Consider the quality and reputation of the course and institution generally and its standing within your industry
   - Identify areas of flexibility such as exit points and credit for previous studies

2. Understand the time commitment
   - Be aware that it will consume more of your time than you expect
   - Consider the impact on your work time
   - Develop and implement time management strategies
   - Construct and adhere to a detailed schedule
   - Be organised

3. Analyse your motivation
   - State and quantify your goals and expectations
   - Assess your needs and establish your criteria
   - Review your reasons in the context of your career direction

4. Keep the balance
   - Retain some semblance of a social life
   - Balance work, study and home life
   - Treat free time as an asset

5. Secure the support of your employer
   - Seek support in terms of time off for lectures and/or tuition fees

6. Assess your family situation- can you cope?
   - Ensure your spouse supports the initiative and is involved
   - Allocate quality time for family pursuits

7. Understand the financial investment
   - Assess part payment options vs. payment upfront
   - Assess FEE-HELP options
   - Conduct a cost-benefit analysis
   - Be realistic in your salary expectations post study
   - Investigate grants or scholarships

8. Be involved
   - Actively participate in the course and ask questions
   - Interact with other students to build your network of contacts

9. Do…
   - Study to learn, not to pass
   - Eat well and look after your health
   - Enjoy learning for what you get out of it- not just the qualification

10. Don’t…
    - Procrastinate
    - Take on too much or over commit yourself
    - Take it too seriously
    - Let study rule your life