

MELISSA MARTIN: ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT, LAMINEX



Course of Study: Bachelor Degree in Business - Accountancy

Tertiary Institute: RMIT

Duration of Study: 2009—July 2011

The Background Story:

Melissa had previously completed an Advanced Diploma in Accounting with RMIT and then decided to continue on with the Bachelor Degree. All told her studies took 3yrs part time.

How did you find returning to study whilst also working fulltime?

“In terms of balancing time to complete assignments and exams as well as work fulltime, it was quite challenging, however I found that the content of what I was learning was more meaningful as I was able to apply it to my day to day job. I had previously studied directly out of high school and didn’t really appreciate what I was learning as I couldn’t apply it to the ‘real world’. By studying in conjunction with working, I definitely appreciated it more and set my standards and studying goals a lot higher.”

Would you have undertaken your studies if EEF funding wasn’t available?

“The EEF funding played a big part in my motivation to complete my studies. I would have eventually completed them, but probably not in the timeframe that I did, or at this stage in my life due to the financial impact it would have caused me personally. The EEF funding provides fantastic opportunities for staff who are unable to study due to the increasing costs involved.”

Are there any words of encouragement you may have for other employees considering studying?

“While the thought of combining study and fulltime work can seem quite overwhelming, it is very rewarding at the end, both from a personal and a career point of view. It can be quite stressful at times juggling the various workloads, however I am so glad I completed my studies as I have now opened up more doors for myself and my career progression, and have satisfied my own personal achievements.”

“I encourage anyone who is thinking of getting back into studying to go for it and utilise the EEF funding opportunity to take away that additional financial burden, so they only need to concentrate on the actual studying aspect.”

Melissa Martin