



theSun

## postgradFocus

ON TUESDAY MAY 29, 2012

► Editor Irene Leong ► Tel (Editorial) 03-7784 6688 ► To advertise email [advertise@thesundaily.com](mailto:advertise@thesundaily.com)Managing class **conflicts**

&gt; Dependable study mates can help to cut down the time spent on research



**P**URSUING a postgraduate degree has always been a decision that result-driven individuals label as a "career progression" move.

An increasing number of employers nowadays are lending support to their staff by allowing time off work (for weekend or evening classes), the option to work part-time or to take a sabbatical to pursue their studies.

Multinational companies or organisations that require well-skilled and knowledge-driven employees go the extra mile by providing financial assistance via partial funding or reimbursement for classes and examination fees.

The final piece of the puzzle, however, lies in how much effort the prospective student is willing to put in to work for that postgraduate degree while still trying to meet targets at work.

## 24 HOURS NOT ENOUGH

You may have heard of how difficult it is to study and work at the same time, especially when it comes to pursuing a comprehensive postgraduate syllabus like the MBA. For many part-time postgraduate students, it has meant giving up weekends and even their social lives in order to juggle school assignments, work KPIs and deadlines for both.

## TO WORK OR NOT

Despite this situation—which has prompted many individuals to quit either the programme or their jobs—it may be better for you to hold on to your job while you study your postgraduate degree, especially if your daily work is relevant to your topic of study.

The real-life scenarios that you are exposed to at work will help you filter out what works on paper and what works in real life. This can help you come up with workable answers that can be carried out in actual working conditions. This can give you a practical advantage over your peers who are pursuing their MBA full-time.

In the end, however, it really depends on what you want and what you can cope with.

## COPING MECHANISMS

Dealing with what life throws at you all boils down to personal time management, being organised, and knowing what your priorities are.

For students who have family obligations, like children, spouses or parents to support, they will need to find a right support structure financially, emotionally, and mentally. Having the right support structure from your family and friends will be very important, especially when you reach your breaking point and you feel like throwing in the towel. Having someone to pull



Organisers and sponsors of the event... (seated from left): Amptmeijer; Mohd Reza Samsani, managing director of EYE Project Management Sdn Bhd; Hee Kim Fah, chairman and CEO, GTI Media; Idris Jale; Christopher Tock, executive director, EYE Project Management; Muhammad Imran, managing director, GTI Media, and Elizabeth F.Y. Lee, executive director, Sunway University & Sunway Group of Colleges.

**HUNDREDS** of fresh graduates and jobseekers flocked to the recent gradmalaysia Graduate Careers Fair in Partnership with SEC. The fair saw more than 35 exhibitors who were mainly made up of leading employers in the country.

The event was organised by GTI Media, with the support of JobsCentral Malaysia, Careers Portal Partner, and Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa, the venue sponsor.

The event, endorsed by the Ministry of Higher Education, was officiated by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Idris Jale, who is also CEO of Pernandu. The event was also attended by Minister of Home Affairs Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein who joined some 100 student leaders at a luncheon.

The careers fair also marked the opening of gradmalaysia National Student Challenge. Catherine Lam from UPM was named winner, followed by Benjamin Wong from UPM, and Pua Jia Jiun from UTAR, in second and third spots, respectively. Yuan Hang from USM was named Top of the Leaderboard.

Frank Amptmeijer, GTI Media operation director, says the competition was a success on many levels. "The judges, who represented quality organisations, namely Axiata Group, Maybank, HSBC Electronic Data Processing, and RHB Banking Group, were surprised with the ability and creativity of the 30 finalists," he says, adding that all 30 students were later given the chance to showcase themselves to real-life employers at an exclusive networking session.



you back to reality can make all the difference between you going all the way or quitting halfway through.

## SEEK SUPPORT

It will also be helpful to find like-minded, dependable, and hardworking study mates that you can trust to help cut down the time spent on research. Exchanging study notes with the others in your study group, for example, can save precious time. Bear in mind that this idea works well only if the team mates have agreed

beforehand that they will not duplicate each other's work. As in every group endeavour, honest communication, paired with the willingness to share the burdens along with the rewards, are important to ensure success.

By working smart, and working together, you should be able to get the best of all worlds and make it through to graduation.

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**SOURCE:** GTI Media, a leader in the graduate careers media and research business.



To succeed as a working adult on the postgraduate trail means being good in time management, and juggling work, family and studies effectively.