

Paving my own yellow brick road... by Mel Kerin

After successfully getting to the halfway point of my Bachelor of Communication, it occurred to me that not only had I finished half of the degree but there was now only just over a year of it to go. Being based at Berwick campus you come to appreciate the laid back atmosphere of the small campus, but I quickly realised that I needed to start becoming more proactive in my future rather than the reactive relaxed ways of my past. I had made my mind up to start taking my future into my own hands. Like Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, I too had a clear objective not to find my way home but to find my future career. At least Dorothy had the yellow brick road to follow, all I had was the inevitable question, where do I start?

After twiddling my thumbs waiting for something to happen, I stumbled across the Careers and Employment page on the Monash website. It answered all my initial questions of how to begin preparing myself for future employment and listed potential jobs amongst which was the Careers and Employment Internship. Unsure exactly of what the internship entailed but keen to give it a go I sent off my resume and answered the required questions. After being informed that I was successful I knew that I must have been on the right path for my career, inside knowledge of the workings of employers can only be an advantage when it comes around to the dreaded rush and competitiveness of graduate recruitment time. Within the first couple of weeks the internship was in full swing, with me involved in assisting with the vacation fair. Majoring in Public Relations it was a great introduction to the dramas, highlights and effort required to hold a successful event. The vacation fair also offered me the opportunity to meet with potential employers and gain an increased knowledge and understanding of many of the stages involved in recruitment process.

Prior to my internship I was unaware of what vacation employment was let alone what it involved and now approaching the end of the internship I am currently involved in the processes of vacation recruitment for this upcoming summer university break. With the experience of the vacation fair and the resources both texts and people at the Careers and Employment office I know that I am in the best place possible going in to the next stages of recruitment. Experience is an invaluable asset that you can have when it comes to distinguishing between yourself and other perspective employees. Not only have I gained this experience from the internship, it has led me to the next stage of my future. I have now as a result of my own positive personal reaction to the internship taken on a voluntary role as a media assistant for the upcoming Commonwealth Games.

I only have two semesters left until I step out into the jungle of the workforce. Whilst I am still hesitant as to what exactly to expect, I know that the experiences I have gained and information I have received as a result of the internship leave me in a position a hell of a lot better than the one I was in a semester ago.