Is Distance Education right for you?
Here are some things to consider when studying by Distance Education.

Distance education suits self-starters and people into self-directed learning. The challenge for a Distance Education learner is that the motivation and the discipline needed to study can only come from within. Whilst the training provider is there to support you they cannot motivate you to learn. Here are some ways to stay on track and motivated with your Distance Education studies.

Research the course in detail

Research the course, the delivery methods, all of the training provider’s information, handbooks and guides. Make sure you know what you are signing up for BEFORE enrolling. Once you have enrolled, cancelling will more often than not result in loss of course fees.

Set realistic study goals

Different courses have different study loads. Consider your work and family commitments. Don’t kid yourself that if you work full time and have a family that you will be able to study 25 hours a week – you are just setting yourself up for failure. A Certificate IV level course can have a volume of work of anywhere between 600 to 2400 hours (Source: ASQA Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015). If you have 12 months to complete the course, even at the lower end, you could be looking at 50 hours per month, equating to over 1.5 hours per day.

Understand how distance education works

Make sure you understand how you access your course ware and your assessments, as well as how you submit your assessments when you have completed them and what support services are available. If in doubt, ask!

Daily routine

Incorporate your learning in to your daily / weekly routine. Set aside time just like you would if you were attending classes. Identify if you are a morning or a night person, and then set time to study. If you’re not a morning person, forget about studying before work – it’s not going to happen. You would be better off setting aside time (after the kids are in bed) to study. When you know what is going to be the best time for you to study, put it in your diary and stick to it.

Study space

Create a distraction free study area with good seating and lighting with all of the resources you need to study. Studying in front of the television at night time is not conducive to effective study habits.

Join networking groups

Social networking is full of groups that you can join. LinkedIn is a professional social networking site that has lots of groups dedicated to lots of different areas of business. If you do not have a LinkedIn profile, you can join for free and connect with like-minded professionals and groups.

Reward yourself

When you achieve a study goal – reward yourself. It could be something small like a week end off study, or an outing with the family. You need to reward yourself to stay motivated to keep going. An achievable goal is the submission of each unit’s assessment.

Need more information?

Contact Learning & Development:

education@nsca.org.au

1800 816 459