

Life after university: Considering college

If you're thinking about life after university, you should start by thinking about where you're at now. How have your career interests developed or changed? Have you gained enough real-world skills to be successful in your chosen field? These questions may be discouraging, but there is a solution: community college.

Brianna Murray, Event Management post-graduate certificate student at Durham College, made the decision to attend Durham College after she obtained her degree majoring in Equine Bio-Resource Management at the University of Guelph. She made the decision based on a few factors: "Durham is right around the corner from my home, and my degree program only touched on the basics of event planning. It was great to be exposed to event work, and I had so much fun actually planning an event in university," said Murray. "But after one semester in my grad certificate at Durham, I realized that university doesn't prepare you for the real world," she said.

Murray also found the experience different than university in other ways. "In university, there's so much focus on theory, examinations, and you just don't get the one-on-one attention. You have to work real hard to find opportunities and make yourself known to others, including the teachers," she said. "Post-graduate college is a completely different atmosphere. The teachers work very closely with you to help you explore the material with a 'real-world' attitude, and they practically throw opportunities at you. It's a lot of team work and practice."

Murray also pointed out three key things about post-graduate college programs: "You're here to do well. You need to focus and apply yourself. And keep all work you do for your portfolio; the work they give you in class isn't busy-work."