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Generation Slashie: the changing nature of work

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Generation Slashie: the changing nature of work

After uni comes that all-important foray into the workforce, but what happens if you still don't know what you want to do after graduation? This decision can be especially confusing if you've studied for a double degree and are equally passionate about both fields.



Luckily, we're entering interesting times in the workplace. With flexible working arrangements and agile workplaces, it makes it more possible than ever to work on two (or more) careers at once.

A new crop of professionals – dubbed 'Generation Slashie' – is taking multitasking to new levels, splitting their working week across several sectors at once to create portfolio careers.

Master of Criminology student, Hope Baluch, is one such professional. After first graduating at Macquarie with a double degree in Psychology and Law, Hope spends one day a week working with women and children at a family psychology clinic, and one day a week as a paralegal at a firm in Paddington, Sydney. The remainder of her week is split between postgrad studies and fostering her two start-ups, in the beauty industry and in a shipping service, which makes her job title read something like lawyer/psychologist/business owner.

For Hope, the work flexibility is best suited to her personality and interest in pursuing her many passions. "Every day is different. I don't have a favourite field, because I always want to do them all. I like helping people in such different aspects of life."

Of course, making such a flexible situation work requires discipline, organisation and effective time management, but it's doable. "It is a challenge to juggle my busy workload, but I believe you can always push yourself beyond expectations," says Hope. "It helps to have weekly planners with all general updates, meetings, interviews and reminders locked in, and to make sure your updating becomes routine."

While working in different industries simultaneously is appealing for many – primarily because it



keeps things interesting – it doesn't work for everyone. That said, if you prefer to pursue one career path, but decide on pursuing another passion further down the track, it should be relatively easy to do in those workplaces that accommodate flexible working arrangements.

As it turns out, being able to pursue your passions in more flexible working environments can actually benefit employers, too, says Yvette Blount, Senior Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance, from the Macquarie University Centre for Workforce Futures . “Employees are increasingly interested in work-life balance. The thinking is that if employees have a more flexible arrangement, they are likely to be more engaged with their team and the organisation. Some work can be performed autonomously and other work requires a team approach.”

Either way, working in multiple roles – for instance, as a lawyer/psychologist/business owner, like Hope Baluch does – is becoming increasingly common.

The Careers and Employment Service are hosting Careers Week from 12 – 16 March. There will be also be a Graduate Career Fair on 15 March in the foyer at 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue (E7A) and in the interior courtyard of 14 Eastern Rd (E7B) from 12-3pm with a variety of large international businesses, government organisations, professional associations and not-for-profits attending. You can [register here](#) to attend any of the Careers Week events.