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**STUDY, LIFE AND WORK:  
THE WORK-LIFE SITUATION OF FULL-TIME VET STUDENTS  
WHO COMBINE STUDY AND WORK**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Student trends in adult education show that working whilst undertaking full-time study can be considered a normal occurrence across Vocational Education and Training (VET) and university sectors. Combining study and work can be associated with a range of poor outcomes in social, emotional and academic spheres. Maintaining a balance between the intersecting commitments of work, life and study is important for student wellbeing. This research used a work-life perspective to explore the personal experiences of full-time hospitality students who combine VET and work, with the aim of improving the knowledge of how students cope with the intersecting pressures of work, life and study. A survey was undertaken of 164 hospitality students at TAFE SA, with nine subsequent interviews to illuminate the experiences of combining study and work. The data reflected the high levels of stress, time-strain, and interference with activities outside of work, and the dissatisfaction with work-life balance experienced by working students. The findings can provide VET policy-makers and academic staff with insights into the support services which can in turn, enhance the experience of full-time students, enabling them to meet the intersecting demands of work, life and study.*