


Super scholar

SAM JAMA EARNS MULTIPLE DEGREES WHILE WORKING FULL-TIME

BY VANESSA SANTILLI, JOURNALISM '10



Sam Jama is a case study in time management. A senior analyst (compliance) for the provincial government, he is also pursuing a PhD in human and organizational development at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif., via distance education. In addition to his full-time working hours for the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, he spends up to 35 hours a week doing schoolwork.

“As I’m required to attend work, I treat my school hours just as importantly and I make sure that I keep to them,” he says. “They are appointments for me. And that is the critical part of what I feel is my success.”

Jama is used to balancing the demands of work and school. When he began his bachelor of arts in Public Administration and Governance at Ryerson, he was already working for the government. Graduating in 2005, he went on to achieve a master of business administration at Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C., in 2011. As well, he is expecting to complete his master’s in human development this summer.

Amidst his studies, he’s been working his way up in progressively senior positions within the public service.

“My hope is to use this education as a vehicle to propel me on and open more doors in the future,” says Jama, whose aspirations include teaching, writing and providing consulting services to small businesses.

One day, he plans on writing a book about his experiences balancing a busy work schedule with school priorities.

He credits Ryerson’s flexibility with much of his personal success.

“Some of the instructors had also pursued their education in the evening or in their spare time,” he says. “Learning skills from them as to how to do a thing like that really helped.” ■

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