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Investing in yourself is one of the smartest decisions one can make—and going back to school, whether in a short course or on a full-time graduate degree, can definitely make a difference in your career. Read on for some tips to help you decide!

## 1. Ask yourself: Is it worth the investment?

Think of the time you'll be spending doing homework, studying for tests, or just physically going to and from school. Think of the burden on your budget too. Will you be able to juggle going to school AND going to work? Likewise, think of how the additional course or degree can help your career goals. Do the long-term possibilities outweigh the short-term sacrifices?

## 2. Research, research, research.

Thanks to the Internet, there are lots of options available! Search through the website of your old alma mater to start—many local universities offer graduate degrees and short courses, and many offer flexible schedules too. Alternatively, look at specialty schools (e.g. hotel & culinary arts; computer sciences; business; design; fashion, etc) which may offer something more tailored to your interests.

## 3. Is it something you can take up for free? Or for cheap?

While you do need a certification or accreditation (which does cost money) for your skills to be recognized by employers, there are cheap, or even free options for you if you just want to enhance your skills. International universities such as MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and Stanford offer free downloadable lectures online. There are also websites that offer tutorials in code (HTML, CSS, Java, etc), graphic design and other tech-related topics. If you have a friend or relative who is an expert on the subject, go to them for advice or mentorship too!

## 4. How will you pay?

Tuition, books, transportation—all these fees add up. Are your savings enough to pay for school? Lenddo offers loans for professional training and education. It takes just 10 minutes to apply for a loan too! With easy payment terms, you can invest in your own career growth.

So, Lenddo members, have you ever thought about going back to school to help you advance in your career? What are other ways in which you can reach your career goals? Tell us in the comments section!

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