

# CAREERS NETWORK BULLETIN

Melbourne | Geelong | Warrnambool | Off campus

ISSUE 03  
APRIL 2013



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PARENT TERTIARY  
INFORMATION SESSION  
WARRNAMBOOL**  
18 APRIL

**'SO YOU WANT TO BE  
A DOCTOR' MEDICAL  
INFORMATION NIGHT,  
GEELONG WATERFRONT  
CAMPUS**  
24 APRIL

**CAREER PRACTITIONERS'  
DAY, GEELONG**  
26 APRIL

**INTRODUCTION TO FURTHER  
EDUCATION INFORMATION  
EVENING, GEELONG**  
29 MAY

**SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
CHALLENGE, GEELONG  
WAURN PONDS CAMPUS**  
30-31 MAY

**SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING  
CHALLENGE, WARRNAMBOOL  
CAMPUS**  
18 JUNE

## NEW RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS - 'FIRST IN FAMILY'

With higher education becoming more accessible to all students, we are finding a greater trend towards a large number of Deakin University students being first in their family to attend university.

What this means is that if neither of a student's parents attended university, then that student would be classed as 'first in family.'

Just like many of our students, 'first in family' students, come from a diverse range of backgrounds, nationalities and educational backgrounds, making Deakin the worldly destination that it is.

Being the first in your family to go to university is something to be proud of, but exploring all your options, meeting expectations, juggling study and personal commitments and getting into university can traditionally be challenging.

In order to address these challenges, Deakin would like to introduce an online space where

your students can go for support and advice or find relatable students to talk with.

This space is being run by four current First in Family Student Ambassadors from Deakin University.

They too are the first in their immediate family to study at university and understand that it can be a daunting process to go from secondary to tertiary study.

Here you can expect posts from them that will help your students with that process. They will share stories of their personal experiences, advice, tips and tricks, along with interviews and anything they can come up with to make the transition easier.

Follow the blog today at [deakin-first-in-family.tumblr.com](http://deakin-first-in-family.tumblr.com).

Stay tuned for more information about how a First in Family Student Ambassador can attend your school and speak with your students.

## WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

The Student Recruitment team would like to welcome Justine Hodge into the role of Marketing Officer, Parental Engagement.

Part of Justine's role is to liaise with parents of future students through a wide range of events and initiatives that have been developed and implemented as part of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) funding the University has received. Justine is available to present at parent information evenings your school may be holding. Justine's contact details are listed with the rest of the team at the back of this bulletin.

Additionally, we would like to announce that Angela Fragiacomano has given birth to two healthy and happy baby boys. While she is on maternity leave, Roula Karakostas will be our new Senior Marketing Officer and commences just after Easter. Roula looks forward to meeting many of you at upcoming network meetings and events.

## BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENT PROFILE



### NATASHA CONNER

#### Majors: nutrition, physical activity and health, and health promotion

I am currently studying third year of my Bachelor of Health Science.

I have completed my major in physical activity and health and am in the process of completing my majors in nutrition and health promotion.

I enjoy the flexibility and variety of my current studies. There is such a broad selection of areas of interest in health science and you can get a feel for each one. My majors share the similar ideas around health; however each one is so different from the other and all are really interesting.

A highlight of my current course would have to be the transition from MIBT to Deakin after my first year. I undertook my course at Deakin after completing a Diploma of Health Science at MIBT. After Year 12, I was unsure of what I wanted to study and was considering a gap year as I did not find any courses or degrees that took my interest. However I came across the Diploma of Health Science through MIBT and

after a little research I submitted my application. After the first year at MIBT, I was completely hooked and could not wait to continue my course at Deakin. I was able to choose my majors and start following a career pathway that interested me.

This allowed me to start getting a glimpse of what future career opportunities are available that I may want to seek. I am really looking forward to being able to use the knowledge and skills I have developed in my course in future workplaces to enhance the health of others at both an individual and population level.

The opportunities I have had at Deakin during my studies have been incredible for me. I have been able to gain hands-on experience with a health placement through JobShop. I also completed a work placement in nutrition offered by JobShop and funded by the government.

I was paid by the University and spent three and half weeks, in Geelong, working for a non-government community organisation that addressed food insecurity in the suburb of Corio.

I was able to work with the community by interviewing and conducting surveys with the locals.

I used many skills and knowledge from my course in developing a project brief, operations manuals, databases and many more. Best of all I was able to gain insight in the type of work that I am passionate about; community development.

I was fortunate enough to be accepted to go on a two week study tour with 18 other students

to Cambodia. The study tour was a unit called International Perspectives of Health and Social Development and therefore I was able to gain credit towards my degree. Within the study tour I was able to experience the beautiful culture of Cambodia as well as learn about Cambodia's actions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. I had the opportunity to visit and learn from both government and non-government organisations, which broadened and strengthened my current understandings and knowledge from my studies.

I learnt a lot from both these opportunities and they really helped me grow and develop not only personally, but also academically as a student and professionally as a future employee.

My Deakin course has given me a broad perspective of the different types of career options there are in health sciences. I have learnt the many different needs and requirements of the health field. I feel as I learn more and grow more confident in my studies that I also grow more confident in my ability as an aspiring future professional in the health industry.

I thoroughly enjoy all parts of my course and look forward to multiple job opportunities to work in the different health sectors. My particular interest is in nutrition and I would like to continue my postgraduate studies in this area alongside public health.

The Bachelor of Health Sciences has enough variety and flexibility within the course that it will even suit individuals who aren't 100 per cent sure what pathway they would like to take.

## BACHELOR OF COMMERCE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

### Deakin's Bachelor of Commerce has received the ultimate benchmark of quality.

The Bachelor of Commerce is now internationally recognised and EPAS accredited by the European Foundation for Management Development's Programme (EFMD). EPAS is an international benchmark for business programs worldwide. Deakin's Bachelor of Commerce is the only Australian commerce degree with EPAS accreditation.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Business and Law, Professor Gael McDonald, said gaining the accreditation was a coup, and would make it easier for students to evaluate the strengths of Deakin's business courses.

'It is our students who will benefit the most from this accreditation,' she said.

'This is one of the strongest possible signs that they are enrolled in world-class and internationally-recognised programs.

'As they go out into the workplace, they can be proud that their Bachelor of Commerce is well respected and is meeting the needs of both local and international employers.'

Along with the EPAS accreditation, the Faculty of Business and Law is undergoing a number of exciting upgrades and changes to our courses. You will have seen our new information systems course and suite of combined courses commence this year. Those of you at the Burwood Careers Practitioners day will also have heard about the exciting changes to our Bachelor of

Management, starting next year. Our courses are constantly evolving to ensure they stay up to date with the rapidly changing modern business workplace. As part of this change and evolution, we would love to know what you think about our courses, how they relate to your students, and the advice that you give them.

We would be greatly appreciative if you could spare five minutes to answer a few questions and give us your feedback at the following link: [www.customerdirect.com.au/deakinbuslawcareeradvisors](http://www.customerdirect.com.au/deakinbuslawcareeradvisors).

## GOOD LUCK TO OUR GRADUATES

As MIBT welcomes more than 1500 new students to the March 2013 intake, we also congratulate all students who completed their MIBT diploma in Trimester 3 (February 2013).

Of the students who completed, 77.5 per cent of Australian students were eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) at Deakin University in various undergraduate programs. These students are just commencing their second year at Deakin and we wish them well.



Iris Fox is one of these graduates. Her determination has paid off, having just graduated from MIBT with seven high distinctions and one distinction in the Diploma of Science.

Asked to describe student life at MIBT, Iris says: 'It has been really good! I've enjoyed myself tremendously. MIBT has a relaxing environment, and it's conveniently located on the Deakin campus. I've also made many friends from all over the world, and we always study and hang out together.'

Iris advises future students to 'study hard'. 'Make sure that you are consistent with your study and revision, and also always be organised. Enjoy your time as a student too. Try to do as much as you can!'

For more information visit [www.mibt.vic.edu.au](http://www.mibt.vic.edu.au).

## NEW ENGINEERING LABS SPARK NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Professor Alex Stojcevski in the Renewable Energy lab.

The ability to replicate a 300 kilometre transmission line or perform research using an on-campus commercial wind turbine connected to the national electricity grid are just some of the features of two new engineering laboratories at Deakin University.

'These are the latest additions to a suite of refurbished engineering laboratories and equipment that ensure facilities for engineering at Deakin are world class,' says Professor Guy Littlefair, head of the University's School of Engineering. 'They are part of a number of exciting developments in engineering at Deakin, including our \$55 million Centre for Advanced Design in Engineering Training (CADET) currently under design in the school.'

The Renewable Energy laboratory and Electrical laboratory are located at Deakin's Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus and will provide undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as PhD students and researchers, with exciting new opportunities, says Professor Alex Stojcevski, the school's Deputy Head.

As well as the commercial wind turbine – likely to become a campus landmark with its location on the roof of the engineering building – a bank of 12 solar panels has also been installed as part of the new facilities. Both are connected to Australia's electricity grid, which means the power being generated can be used or sold back to the grid. An important aspect of being connected to the grid, Professor Stojcevski says, is the ability it gives researchers and students to conduct experiments and research that are not just using a local 'micro-grid', but at a 'real-world level'.

In addition to students and researchers being able to monitor in the laboratory how much power is being generated, interested passers-by will

be able to see that information on screens in the corridors outside.

'The Renewable Energy lab has equipment that allows students and researchers to not only simulate computer applications of what wind turbine or solar panel or solar wind or solar thermal power generation can do, it allows them to use real equipment,' Professor Stojcevski explains.

'This means our students can replicate what a real engineer would do, such as feel the equipment, set up the equipment and so on. For example, in the lab we can replicate a 300 kilometre transmission line, so students will be able to learn to detect faults and potentially come up with mechanisms to prevent them.'

Professor Stojcevski says the new labs have also been designed to encourage interdisciplinary learning and research.

'For instance, in the Renewable Energy lab, our mechanical engineering students can study the gears and shafts and mechanical instruments within a wind turbine, while our electrical engineering students can examine the energy that's being produced, the power and energy efficiency.'

The benefits and opportunities provided by the new labs are likely to flow on to Deakin's off-campus engineering students too, with the school looking to provide remote access to equipment as well.

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## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT) GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Course Director Lynne Adamson gives honest and general information about Deakin's experiences with graduates from the past seven years.

Deakin has good graduate outcomes in terms of employment, with high percentages of OT graduates (over 90 per cent) being available for full time work, and a smaller group immediately going on to higher study such as master's or PhDs. The most common pattern is that new graduates find work, usually within Victoria, then work for a few years before going on to their specialist OT area of interest, further study or travelling overseas. Final year students may not always get their first preference for work straight off, however new opportunities are always emerging. Our graduates work in very diverse areas – a couple have moved interstate by choice and have immediately gained work. With the students who travel overseas, an Australian OT degree is generally well received. It is not usual to be unemployed for long, unless looking for specific areas.

With the increasing number of universities offering occupational therapy, some people think that getting jobs will be harder. We don't have any data to support this. There seems to be ongoing need for OTs in many areas, as well as new areas

of practice emerging. Information on starting salaries is not easy to find, but generally will be in the range of \$40 000–\$55 000+. Variations are due to the different sectors of employment or different awards. In the private sector, there will possibly be different ranges, although it is in general the same range.

There are many new opportunities opening up – for example occupational rehabilitation, community-based services, employment assessment services, positions within schools. Our graduates have gone into many diverse areas. Over the past few years our graduates are working in hospital and clinical settings, several in occupational rehabilitation and employment services (working with injured workers), some who have worked in schools for children with disabilities, or working as a private practitioner, specialising in interventions for hand and upper limb injuries.

You may already have information about the OT professional group, but just in case, [www.otaus.com.au](http://www.otaus.com.au).



## SAVE THE DATE

'So you want to be a doctor' Medical Information Night  
Wednesday 24 April at 7 pm  
Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre, Geelong Waterfront Campus