

Mr Ashley James

H315 Bachelor of Food Science and Nutrition

Graduated: Deakin University Bachelor of Food Science and Nutrition

First job: Scalzo Food Industries Category Manager

A highlight since graduating has been... 'achieving a position of responsibility within the commercial side of the company. I have been promoted four times in four years so I guess you could say the job is going pretty well!'

The food industry ... 'is something I chose to get into after studying food science, although initially I thought I would be a nutritionist. That really surprised me – I didn't expect the studies to inspire me in a different direction.'

I really enjoy the industry because ... 'it's so dynamic. Consumer preferences for foods change so we have to be innovative to keep up with trends. It involves a lot of research-based work here and overseas which means regular travel for me to some fascinating places.'

My first year after graduating ... 'was in quality assurance which was very interesting. We took random samples from trucks carrying our products and tested them. That's probably when I applied my Deakin studies and food science skills the most.'

Deakin impressed me ... 'with its general use of technology – lecturers often presented via video link-up from other campuses. You learn a lot of tools for effective presentation. Every subject requires you at some point to get up in front of your peers and present. These are important skills in the food industry where it's not an individual process, rather a more team-based effort.'