

Deakin University

Full name: Rachel Sumwai
Year graduated from Deakin: 2007
Course name: Bachelor of Food Science and Nutrition
Campus: Burwood

What is your current job and what does it entail?

Food Technologist – Schweppes Australia

In my role as Food Technologist I develop and create new product formulations and processes. Also, I conduct line trials and productions and ensure current and new products comply with Australian and New Zealand Food Standards.

I work within cross functional teams to develop new products to meet consumer needs and provide technical support and assistance to manufacturing plants across Australia

What are the things you enjoy most about your job and what have been your career highlights to date?

Having started in the Cadbury Schweppes two year Graduate Program in 2008, the diversity of my work has been the most enjoyable. My roles included customer sales on the road, product development, marketing insights and channel marketing.

This broad experience has provided me with a holistic view from Product Ideation through to production on the manufacturing line all the way to the direct customer sales.

In my current role as a Food Technologist, the aspect I most enjoy is creating new product formulations from scratch in the lab to the scale up in our manufacturing site and later seeing them in the hands of consumers.

What do you intend to do in the future?

I aspire to continue to work within the food industry and continue to develop my technical and leadership skills. There is a great deal more to learn and don't think you ever stop.

How do you feel your Deakin course has helped your career – both in obtaining your current position, and in the future development of your career?

Deakin helped me in obtaining my current position as it provided me the technical and management fundamentals and guidance, for work in industry. The breadth of my course allowed me to get an overview of what potential paths and options were available. With the tight community at Deakin, I was able to leverage my peers and lecturers when required.

I will continue to utilise these skills in my future career.