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WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter specifically for parents with a child who is applying for university! We hope that you find our tips and suggestions useful and informative, and that they help you to guide your child into their educational future.

Other great resources are the 'information for parents' page on the Deakin web site and our *Parents Guide to University*, also available on our web site deakin.edu.au/parents.

If you have any further enquiries about your child's future at Deakin or the university application process, please don't hesitate to contact us on 1300 DEGREE or enquire@deakin.edu.au.

DECIDING ON THE RIGHT COURSE

Choosing which university course will give your child the best options for the future is an exciting time. Research, discussion and planning are all important factors in making this decision and as a parent you can help your child by providing support and advice.

TIPS

- » Encourage your child to attend on campus events, such as Open Day, and speak with current students and staff. Upcoming events are listed here. deakin.edu.au/cop
- » Assist your child to find the most up-to-date information online. The VTAC web site vtac.edu.au is a useful place to start, and the VTAC course search can assist your child in finding the most suitable course.
A range of information is also available on the Deakin University web site. deakin.edu.au
- » Encourage your child to talk to school careers officers, current university students, university staff, and, professionals working in the field they are looking to study.
- » Read course booklets and the *VTAC Guide*.



CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

The Change of Preference (COP) period is an opportunity for your child to reassess the courses they have put down on their VTAC preference list and to add, remove or change the order. COP runs from Monday 28 November (9 am) to Wednesday 21 December (5 pm), however, most students will wait until they get their ATAR before making any changes. Regardless of whether your child is a current Year 12 student, an international student studying Year 12 in Australia, a TAFE or private provider student, a graduate, a current university student, or currently in the workforce – their preferences can be changed through VTAC. www.vtac.edu.au

Your child should consider changing their preferences if one or more of the below applies:

- » they have changed their mind about what course they want to study
- » their ATAR is higher than expected
- » their ATAR is lower than expected.

TIPS

- » Remember to check your child has met the prerequisites and any other additional requirements for courses they want to add to their preference list.
- » Encourage your child to find out about alternative pathways to university (please refer to the pathways section on page 3).
- » Use the 2011 clearly-in ATAR for individual courses as an indication of what ATAR they will need. Check individual course guides or the *VTAC Guide* for information.
- » If your child's ATAR is just below what's needed, it is important to keep those courses on their preference list, as the clearly-in ATAR might move up or down.

EXAM TIPS

For a successful exam period, it's really important that your child develops a good study routine and adequate preparation.

You should encourage your child to achieve a balanced lifestyle with leisure activities built in. Also encourage them to get adequate sleep, eat well and drink plenty of fluids, especially water.

Here are a few study tips for your child:

- » find a dedicated study space
- » start exam preparation early
- » study past exam papers
- » organise their study time so you study for set periods with short breaks
- » set specific study time goals.



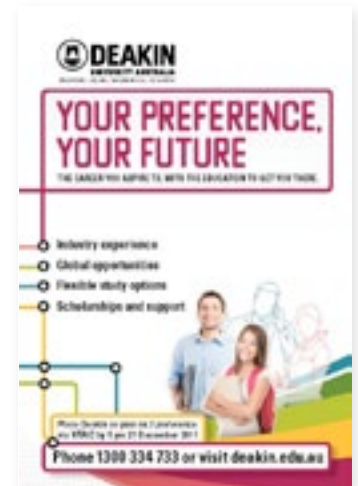
How can Deakin help?

During the Change of Preference period Deakin provides many ways to ensure you and your child are equipped with all the information you need. You can go online to have your questions answered, or come along to one of our information events or drop-in sessions to speak one-on-one with course advisers and current students.

We are also running a live chat session in December where you can chat online with Deakin staff and students.

For more information, and to download a copy of our *Change of Preference Guide* please visit deakin.edu.au/cop.

If you don't want to wait until our events in December, jump onto Deakin's Facebook page [facebook.com/discoverdeakin](https://www.facebook.com/discoverdeakin), where you can find out more and watch videos of students answering a range of commonly asked Change of Preference questions.



We are currently gathering feedback from parents about their experience of a child's transition from school to university, and impressions of Deakin University. Got five minutes to spare? Take part in the online survey here. deakinartsed.asia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1LdEBsLjZ1s12. Your feedback is very important to us.

NEW COURSES

As Deakin University continues to grow, so does the range of courses we offer. This meets industry demands and offers increasing opportunities for students. In addition to the courses listed in the *Undergraduate Course Guide 2012*, Deakin is pleased to announce the following new courses commencing in 2012.

- » Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) – this course is expanded and will also be offered at the Geelong Waterfront Campus from 2012, in addition to Melbourne Burwood Campus.
- » Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science – this course is expanding and will also be offered at the Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus from 2012, as well as at Melbourne Burwood Campus.
- » Bachelor of Fisheries and Aquaculture – a new course from 2012 offered at the Warrnambool Campus.
- » Bachelor of Information Technology (IT Security) – new for 2012, this course is offered from the Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus.
- » Bachelor of Network Engineering – from 2012 this new course is offered at the Melbourne Burwood Campus.
- » Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry – is a new course based at the Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus, and the only course of its kind in Victoria.
- » Bachelor of Zoology and Animal Science – this new course is offered at the Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus from 2012.
- » Bachelor of Information Technology (IT Security) – this course will be offered at the Melbourne Burwood Campus, Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus and off campus.

For more information about these new courses, please visit deakin.edu.au/courses.



PATHWAYS INTO DEAKIN

If your child's ATAR is lower than expected there are many options available. Listing alternative pathways to Deakin in their VTAC preferences is a great way for them to still achieve their goals.

Your child may wish to consider the following pathways into Deakin.

Deakin at Your Doorstep (Associate Degree of Arts, Business and Sciences)

The Associate Degree of Arts, Business and Sciences provides the opportunity to gain entry into a dream course at Deakin University, and helps develop skills to gain employment.

The associate degree is a two-year, full-time (or part-time equivalent) course. Students can choose from a range of study areas or specialise in streams including arts, business, education, health or sciences. This course is delivered at the Warrnambool Campus and the Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus, and in conjunction with our TAFE partners: East Gippsland Institute of TAFE (Bairnsdale Campus), Chisholm Institute of TAFE (Dandenong and Mornington Peninsula Campuses), Sunraysia Institute of TAFE (Swan Hill Campus), GOTAFE (Wangaratta Campus) and South West Institute of TAFE (Portland Campus). On completion, students can be eligible for up to 18 months credit towards a degree course, and have a guaranteed place in one of several Deakin degree programs. For more information, please visit deakin.edu.au/doorstep.

Choice of campuses

One of the great things about Deakin is that we have four campuses throughout Victoria – one at Melbourne Burwood, two in Geelong and one in Warrnambool. Many of our courses are offered at more than one campus, however, the ATAR required for each campus often differs although the same high-quality degree is delivered. This provides more entry options and offers opportunities to transfer studies from one campus to another.

Melbourne Institute of Business and Technology

Melbourne Institute of Business and Technology (MIBT) is located on Deakin's Melbourne Burwood Campus and Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus, providing the opportunity to gain access to Deakin's facilities and get involved in uni life. Upon satisfactory completion of an MIBT diploma

(providing University academic entrance criteria are met) students are guaranteed entry to second year of the relevant Deakin bachelor's degree. Study areas include commerce, IT/computing, health sciences, management, engineering, media and communication and science. For more information, please visit mibt.vic.edu.au.

TAFE pathways

Upon completion of a TAFE course, your child can apply to Deakin through VTAC and may receive credit for their TAFE qualification if it is in a similar field to the Deakin course they choose to study.

In most cases this will reduce the number of units and/or time required to complete a Deakin qualification. Plus, upon graduation students have not one, but two qualifications. Deakin has three partner TAFEs: Box Hill Institute, South West TAFE and Gordon Institute, however, all TAFE qualifications are considered when applying to Deakin.



Single unit study (non-award)

Your child may wish to undertake a single unit of study at Deakin (without being enrolled or accepted into a course). These units are subject to fees and do not lead to a degree, but may be credited towards a degree if students gain entry to a course at a later stage.

For more information, please visit deakin.edu.au/future-students/applications/enrolments/applications/single-subject.

For more information about pathways to Deakin take a look at our *Pathways to Deakin Guide* at deakin.edu.au/future-students/brochures.



WHY DEAKIN?

Industry experience

The practical, hands-on nature of our courses gives students the skills and knowledge to pursue their career with confidence. Many Deakin courses provide opportunities to gain discipline-specific work experience through Work-Integrated Learning programs. Courses offering professional practice programs are highly sought-after by employers and students alike, as they play a critical role in the development of employability skills and job readiness of graduates.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Deakin University offers a range of scholarships in a variety of categories, ensuring that higher education is accessible and achievable for all members of the community. Deakin offers scholarships for:

- » academic excellence
- » access and equity
- » accommodation
- » Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Each Deakin scholarship provides financial assistance, with several incorporating Work-Integrated Learning opportunities or a mentoring component.

Academic excellence scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students who are offered a place at Deakin in undergraduate and honours courses.

Deakin recognises its responsibility to make higher education affordable for those in need of assistance by offering a comprehensive range of generous scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to support them in their studies. This is reflected in the growing number of access and equity, accommodation and Indigenous scholarships available.

These scholarships are developed specifically for people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to access higher education, such as students from disadvantaged financial backgrounds; regional and rural backgrounds; students with a disability; mature-age students; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

For more information on the range of scholarships available at Deakin, please visit deakin.edu.au/future-students/scholarships or see our *Scholarships Guide 2012* at deakin.edu.au/future-students/brochures.



STUDENT PROFILE

Name: Eve Filer

Campus: Melbourne Burwood Campus

Course: Bachelor of Management/Advanced Diploma of Tourism Management, 2010

In Eve's final year at Deakin she completed an internship with packaging company SPC Ardmona, which ultimately led to a full-time position. It was during this three-week internship that she believes the 'real learning' occurred for her. 'It was the hands-on business experience that was of real benefit, plus networking is so important. It was such a valuable learning experience,' she says.



TRANSITION

University can be an overwhelming place for new students. The *'Getting Started at Deakin'* section of our web site provides a wealth of information, tips and advice for students who are undertaking the transition to university life.

The Deakin University Student Association (DUSA) provides a list of clubs and associations that give students a chance to get involved in a wide range of activities and meet other students.

New students can follow @New_To_Deakin on Twitter for news on everything related to student life at Deakin.

REGIONAL CAMPUSES – A UNIQUE LIVING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Deakin's different campuses means that students can choose the study environment that is right for them.

Deakin's Warrnambool Campus is located at the western end of the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. Warrnambool is a thriving and modern city that offers students a different experience with great opportunities for outdoor adventure and recreation, along with the benefits of being a busy tourist centre.

Deakin's Geelong campuses are on Corio Bay in the city (Waterfront Campus) and at Waurn Ponds on the western end of the newly constructed ring road. Geelong has all the modern amenities of a larger city, including excellent cafés, restaurants, shopping and recreational facilities, and offers a clean, healthy and relaxed environment in which to live.

The greatest advantage of studying at our rural and regional campuses is the class sizes. Studying at Warrnambool and Geelong enables students to have access to smaller classes, interact closer with academic staff and form lifelong bonds with fellow students.

For more information on Deakin's campuses visit deakin.edu.au/campuses.

ARTS AND EDUCATION COURSES

The Faculty of Arts and Education offers programs in the Creative Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education across disciplines that are vital to making Australia an equitable, humane and innovative society. Our courses are focused in the fields of communication, media, literary studies, history, heritage, sociology, philosophy, politics and government, international studies, performing arts, film and digital media, visual arts, and education.

We aim to give students, at undergraduate level an intellectually exciting education, anchored in core disciplines, and developing the professional and vocational skills that are essential in the 21st century workplace. Students are able to engage with lecturers whose research continually informs the teaching and learning environment. They are also given many opportunities to undertake work placements and internships and to experience international exchange. We also teach languages (Indonesian, Italian, Chinese and Arabic) and offer students in-country language programs to assist with learning these diverse languages.

Have a look at our Open Day resources page where you will find some interesting video profiles from students who have undertaken some of our international internships, as well as other opportunities overseas. This page also has lots of information on our courses and the disciplines we offer. Download a flyer about a course that might interest your child or just read about all the individual courses that we have to offer. You can also learn about the opportunities our students have to work with industry professionals and obtain 'real life' hands on experience as part of their studies.

For further information visit deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/future-students/open-day.php.

STUDENT PROFILE

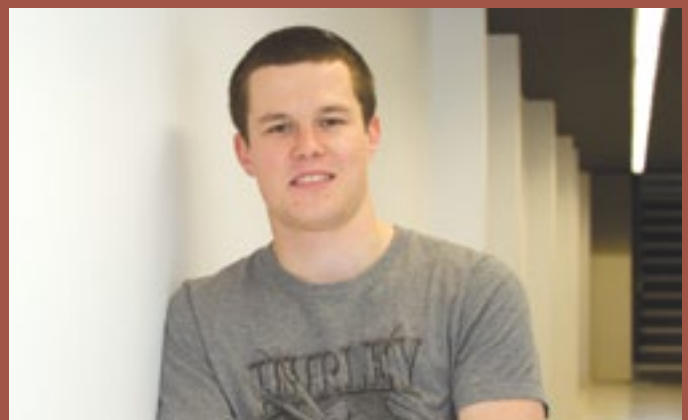
Name: John Ledsam

Campus: Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus

Course: Bachelor of Engineering, 2011

2011 recipient of The George Alexander Foundation Scholarship and the Deakin Accommodation Scholarship

'My scholarships have made my time at Deakin so much more enjoyable. Moving from a small country town to a large coastal city was initially tough, but the assistance from the scholarships has made it a fun experience. I am now enjoying my time both at university and living in Geelong.'



FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW FIRST IN FAMILY GRANT

Following a successful pilot in 2011, the Faculty of Business and Law is again offering its First in Family Grant* scheme on the Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus, the Melbourne Burwood Campus and off campus.

Selection for the First in Family Grant is based on eligibility for the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) that students apply for when completing a VTAC application.

Full-time students can receive up to **\$2000 per year**; that is, \$250 per unit in Trimesters 1 and 2. Students receive their first payment of \$125 per unit in the week prior to the commencement of classes following enrolment, and a second payment of \$125 per unit after census date (end March). The same procedure occurs in Trimester 2.

Difficult financial circumstances may prevent many students going on to tertiary study because they cannot afford the associated living costs. Looking after students' wellbeing is very important to success. As one survey of Australian university students found, 'if students are "relaxed and happy" they are much less likely to drop out', (ACER, 2011: 6).

In a survey of the 2011 First in Family Grant recipients, most students agreed that their grant had made an enormous difference to their ability to study.

One student when asked how she felt about receiving the grant, wrote:

'I was elated, it made me feel special, like I deserved to study because someone was willing to invest in my future, someone that didn't even know me believed that I could do it. It made me want to work harder.'

The Faculty is committed to providing opportunities to capable students to ensure that all students realise their potential regardless of background or personal circumstances.

* Students at Warrnambool receive the Rural and Regional Grant.



FACULTY OF HEALTH PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

Starting university can be both an exciting and nerve-racking time for students, and the transition from school to university represents a great many new challenges.

Deakin's Faculty of Health recognises these challenges and provides a Peer Mentor Program to help make the start of university life as stress-free and easy as possible.

What is peer mentoring?

The Peer Mentor Program is offered to students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Health across all Deakin campuses. The program aims to provide support for international and domestic students in their transition to university life.

Later-year students, such as second and third years, act as peer mentors to first year students. Their role is to:

- » explain university terminology, programs and requirements for new students
- » provide a positive role model
- » provide opportunities for new students to meet people and make new friends
- » act as an information conduit between staff and new students
- » help new students to feel a sense of belonging at university
- » refer new students to appropriate services for support.

At the start of each academic year, students commencing courses with the Faculty of Health will be contacted and invited to participate in the Peer Mentor Program. The program has been running with great success for the past three years and we strongly encourage new students to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

For more information about the Faculty of Health's Peer Mentor Program, please visit deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/peer-mentoring.



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW – CIVIL ENGINEERING AT DEAKIN

The equipment in Deakin University's new civil engineering laboratory might be on a small scale, but the outcomes for students and the wider community could be enormous.

The new \$3.5 million laboratory at Deakin's Geelong Warrn Ponds Campus is used for teaching and research associated with Deakin's civil engineering programs.

'Having this new laboratory means we can expose our students to the real world practical applications of the civil engineering program,' said the head of Deakin's civil engineering program, Professor Bas Baskaran.

The laboratory is used for a range of experiments from testing the structural health of bridges to identifying the impact of rainfall on the soil stability of embankments, and trialling waste water treatment systems for water reuse in industry.

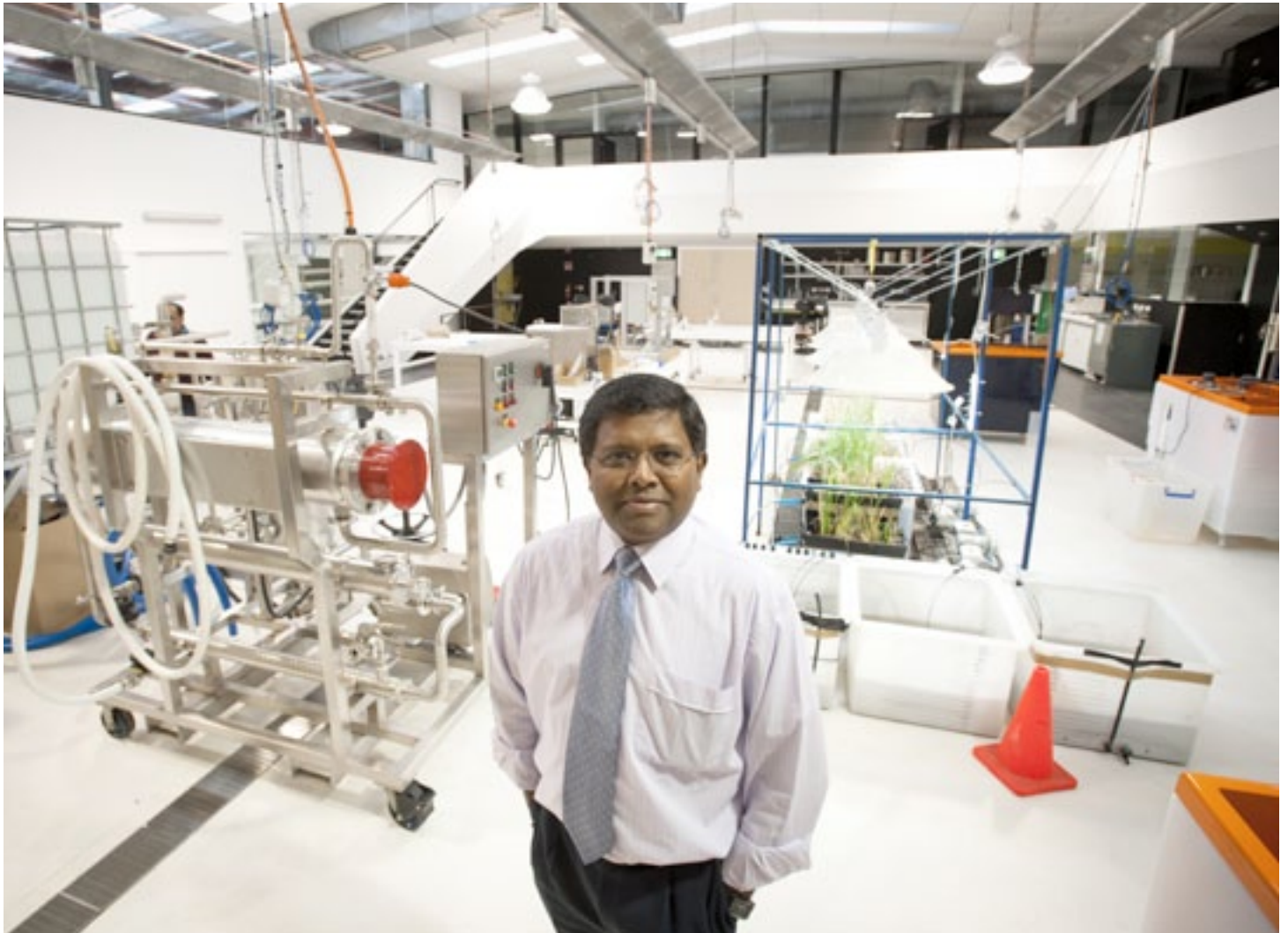
Having small scale equipment not only saves on space, it also has the potential to allow Deakin students to conduct experiments from home.

'Traditional civil engineering laboratories have massive pieces of equipment that take up huge amounts of space,' Professor Baskaran said.

'We have opted for bench-scale models that provide the same outcomes as the larger equipment, but take up less room.'

'The added advantage of small-scale equipment is we can add remote control access. This means that when our students are off campus they will be able to operate the equipment and see the experiments taking place remotely via their computers.'

Professor Baskaran added that, along with the small equipment, the civil engineering laboratory includes larger equipment used to perform tests on concrete, steel or timber elements taken from buildings and bridges to test if they are strong enough to take structural load.



Professor Bas Baskaran

2011 IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

- 11 November Late application closing date
28 November VTAC Change of Preference (COP) period opens

DECEMBER

- 9 December On-campus residence applications close for international students
9 December Very late application closing date
16 December VCE students receive their results and ATAR
17 December COP Drop-in session – Wyndham Leisure Centre, Hoppers Crossing
18 December COP Deakin Information Day – Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus
18 December COP Deakin Information Day – Melbourne Burwood Campus
18 December COP Deakin Information Day – Geelong Waterfront Campus
19 December COP Drop-in session – Hobsons Bay Library, Altona North
19 December COP Deakin Information Evening – Warrnambool Campus
19 December COP Deakin Information Evening – Melbourne Burwood Campus
19 December COP Live Chat session deakinlive.com.au
21 December VTAC COP period closes

2012 IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 5 January International Baccalaureate (IB) students receive their notional ATAR
5 January On-campus residence applications close for new domestic students
6 January VTAC COP period closes for IB students
10 January International offers
16 January Round one offers

FEBRUARY

- 3 February Round two offers
3 February VTAC supplementary round

