one degree

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Professional and accelerated Degrees

Paid industry internships while you study

Having practical experience before you graduate makes getting a job easier, which is why all programs offered by the Griffith Business School require you to complete industry experience – and in some degrees you’re even guaranteed paid internships.

The Bachelor of Commerce (Professional) and Bachelor of Business (Professional) provide students with two years of paid industry internships by the time they graduate.

Students study over trimesters and after the first year, study part-time and work part-time for the remaining two years. The degrees are offered in financial planning or accounting.

Built into the program is a series of professional development weeks where industry professionals provide advice on different topics, so students are prepared when they start working in the industry.

The professional development weeks give students a chance to meet future employers and establish a relationship with firms they would like to work with.

There is such a need for accountants and financial planners, a number of firms offer scholarships for the first year of study, before students commence work in their second year.

Accelerated careers

The Griffith Business School also offers accelerated degrees, where students study over trimesters and complete their degree in two years instead of three. The Bachelor of Commerce (Accelerated) is offered in Accounting and Financial Planning and the Bachelor of Business (Accelerated) is offered in Management, Marketing and Human Resource Management.

The industry loves this program.

Ernst & Young Queensland Managing Partner Jenny Parker said the firm was delighted with the new and innovative approach to learning offered at Griffith.

“Ernst & Young views the approach of combining technical skills with professional development activities taken by Griffith as imperative to the future success of graduates,” Ms Parker said. “Technical skills are only one component in what makes people successful in business.”

Griffith’s focus on providing students with the opportunity to develop further skills throughout their degree and practical hands on experience provides a great platform for success.”

Financial Planning Association of Australia CEO Jo Anne Bloch said the financial services industry was forecast to grow from $900 billion to $1.5 trillion over the next five years.

“Demand for qualified financial advisors is reaching unprecedented levels,” Ms Bloch said. “The Griffith Business Schools’ new degrees will help alleviate this demand by providing companies with highly skilled graduates who have the knowledge to advise investors on the latest industry trends from day one.”

From the Big Day Out stage to teaching politics and economics.

Find out what senior lecturer Dr Tom Conley is really like.

What can students expect in your class?

My philosophy is lectures have to be interesting, engaging and a little bit fun (and not too long). I like to have students interact so I generally seek input from the class. In my first year class I like to break up lectures with topics, completely off the topic.

Do you have a Facebook page?

Yes. One of my first mid-lecture distractions last year was to survey who was on Facebook and who was on MySpace and why?

What do you do in your spare time?

I’m a bit of a current affairs addict but I’m not completely boring. I also play guitar, go to the gym, do stuff with my son, watch a lot of DVDs, barrack for Port Adelaide in the AFL (indeed I was a Port supporter before I was born and, well, you can’t change teams), I also like to cook a lot and watch comedy. YouTube is superb to see comedy sketches.

What music do you listen to?

I like all sorts but I am rather partial to guitar bands. Some of my favourites are Cat Power, Chemical Brothers, Eskimo Joe, Crowes Armada, Guided by Voices, I Heart Hiroshima, Magic Numbers, Moby, Pavement, Pete Yorn, Pixies, Prodigy, Radio Birdman, Ramones, (early) REM, Stone Roses, Strokes, Teenage Fanclub, Velvets, Wizoo, the Beatles… heaps more.

What do you like best about teaching?

Meeting lots of different people from diverse backgrounds and seeing students begin to understand the complexities of the world and of politics and economics. I especially like it when students feel confident enough to argue from the basis of knowledge rather than just opinion.

What do you like least about teaching?

Marking essays and exams! Plagiarism.

What are your top three websites?

That’s a secret. But seriously, YouTube, The New York Times and (God this is a bit boring) The Economist. I do like FB but some of the applications are a pain.

How long have you been teaching for?

I’ve been teaching at Griffith for over eight years, and before that was at the University of Adelaide completing my PhD.

Random Fact: In the 90s Tom was lead guitarist and songwriter in a band called Colourwheel, which in 1994 played at the Adelaide Big Day Out.
What’s uni really like?
First year business student, Adam Dartnall chats about uni life…

Is uni like school?

Uni differs to school in many ways. At school you’re stuck there from 9am – 3pm, you have to wear a uniform and there’s no pubs. At uni you get treated and respected as adults, you get to come and go as you please and you can wear what you want. The only similarity is the life-long friends you make.

What has been the highlight of uni so far?
The highlight – and this is going to sound really nerdy – was getting my first marks back and doing well. Thinking yeah, I can do this. I only got average marks in high school.
The other highlight was meeting new people.

What is the worst thing about uni?
The workload and the amount of study you have to do. At the end it feels good, but when you’re in the thick of it, it’s the worst.

Are you a procrastinator?

Procrastination is everyone’s problem whether it’s what’s on TV, in the fridge or seeing who’s on MySpace. A rewards system is good though. I tell myself if I study for 45mins, then have I can have a 15min or 30min break or if I study for six hours then I can get out and party. You have to have rewards.

How do you find studying for exams?

Studying for exams is stressful if unprepared. If you’re organised throughout the semester you can just read over your notes and you’ll be right, and don’t have to spend 12 hours straight cramming the night before and then not remembering anything you learnt after the exam.

When it comes to budgeting what suffers the most?

All the things you want, not need. I want to buy a new pair of shoes, but I can’t cause my rego is coming up. It’s all the luxuries you miss out on because you have to spend money on food, rent, petrol and bills. I’ve got to have food though.

What’s your favourite low budget meal?

Baked Beans with grated cheese. It’s simple and easy. A minute and a half in the microwave and it’s done. It’s got protein. It’s good for you. One can, easy to clean.

Where do you go for students’ drinks?

Usually G’s Wine Bar or the Campus Club. Tuesday nights at the campus club are good. It’s student night, so there’s plenty of people.

What advice would you give to someone who starts uni next year?

Don’t be nervous. It doesn’t matter if you don’t know anyone. Everyone’s in the same boat and it’s really easy to make friends.

Random fact: Adam plays the didgeridoo – “It’s great for jam sessions! My flatmates play the flute and the guitar and we jam in our laundry because it’s got really good acoustics – it sounds great!”

Fighting money laundering and terror financing

Griffith Business School graduates Georgina Wind and Zarah Kerley fight money laundering and terrorism financing for a living.

They completed a Bachelor of International Relations in 2007 and secured graduate positions with Australia’s anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulator and specialist financial intelligence unit, AUSTRAC in Sydney.

Zarah said she was really excited to be offered a graduate position, so quickly after finishing her degree.

“I always wanted to enter a government graduate program after completing my degree. The AUSTRAC program was new, relevant to my study and a bit different, so it’s been a great start to my career,” Zarah said.

“Many of the business, politics, and counter-terrorism and crime courses we studied at Griffith are very relevant to the roles within AUSTRAC, and have provided us with a solid foundation from which to start our careers.”

Both Zarah and Georgina majored in Asian Pacific studies and Georgina also participated in a Griffith exchange program, spending six months studying at one of Griffith’s partner universities, the University of Toronto.

“Studying at the University of Toronto exposed me to new thinking about world politics,” Georgina said.

“AUSTRAC is involved in a lot of work overseas, helping set up similar units in South East Asia. We liaise with different government departments, both overseas and within Australia,” Georgina said.

“Many of the business, politics, and counter-terrorism and crime courses we studied at Griffith are very relevant to the roles within AUSTRAC.”

Asian Business

New degree focuses on Asia

Asia is increasingly important to Australia, both in terms of politics and business. Our political, economic, and social ties with Asia have expanded in recent years and will continue to strengthen.

The new Bachelor of Asian Business focuses on Business Management in the region and is designed to develop tailored skills and knowledge for the cultural and political economy of the contemporary business environment.

The degree is offered full-time (including summer semester), on-campus and via in-person mode at Nathan. This program also includes a one-year study-abroad industry internship and an optional integrated Honours project.

For further information visit www.griffith.edu.au/business/asian-studies

Graduate Profiles

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Students get inside the US Congress

Two Griffith students enjoyed unique access to the US Congress as part of an eight-week internship program, earlier this year.

Asian and International Relations students Clare Anderson and Monique Salm were among only 13 Australians selected for the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program 2008.

Through the program the Business students travelled to Washington DC and were assigned to Congressional offices to learn about the legislative process and US-Australian relations.

Clare said the experience was amazing. “This internship gave me experience in a field I was keen to gain exposure to. To learn about the practice of government in one of the most fast-paced, thrilling environments in the world was fantastic,” Clare said.

“Being placed in a Congressional office exposed me to many important events as they happened. It was an exciting way to be thrown in the deep end of life on Capitol Hill.”

“I also gained an important insight into the workings of the US government, and government in general — observing how democratic representatives strive to consider and balance the many competing interests and needs in the work of government.”

Both Monique and Clare thanked Griffith for the support to pursue the internship.

Ticket to Germany

You might think that an international exchange program is just about studying overseas, but with Griffith’s Ruhr Valley Internship you also gain practical experience working in a foreign country.

As part of the fully-funded internship, you spend the Australian summer in Germany studying the local language then six weeks working in a foreign country.

“Having the chance to travel. It’s a great experience that I’d do all over again if I had the chance.”

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