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Faculty of Engineering Newsletter

World Youth Day Sydney in July 2008 and student travel

World Youth Day (WYD) will be held in Sydney from Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 July, 2008. The largest youth event in the world, WYD, is expected to attract over 125,000 visitors to Australia, making it the biggest event Australia has ever hosted. The event will also mark the first visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Australia.

We would like to request our representatives to be aware of the anticipated high demand for flights into Sydney around WYD. Orientation Week for Spring session is 14 – 18 July and lectures commence on 21 July. It is recommended that students arriving for Spring session book flights as soon as possible, in order to secure a reservation and arrive in time for Orientation.

International Engineering Scholarship for Academic Achievement

A new scholarship recognises high-performing international students enrolling in Faculty of Engineering undergraduate programs. The scholarship includes a cash grant, a travel grant and access to advanced learning programs. The highest performing students will also be guaranteed a paid work placement. The scholarship is guaranteed at the time of admission and there is no-limit to the number of scholarships available. Please see the attached flier for further information or go to: http://www.uow.edu.au/eng/scholarships/UOW041363.html
Issuance of Conditional CoE’s

Requests for conditional CoE’s are considered by Case Officers in situations where a student is awaiting final semester results or final degree/diploma certificate, but already meets English language requirements.

The process for issuance of conditional CoE’s is as follows:

- The usual advance payments should be made (usually first session fees plus OSHC);
- The signed acceptance form is sent to UniAdvice;
- CoE is issued; and,
- The relevant condition will remain on the offer and the agent or student must provide the required documents to clear the condition prior to enrolment.

Representatives who wish to have a student considered for a conditional CoE should contact the student’s Case Officer.

Certificate in Global Workplace Practice Update

The Certificate in Global Workplace Practice commenced at the end of March with an enthusiastic response from students in both the seminars and on the eLearning discussion board. One student commented on the discussion board:

“I think this is a great effort from uni and we're in the right hands of the most diligent and lovely staff I've ever seen. It’s a great program to empower students with social engineering skills and give a taste of the real world!!”

The program has been most popular among Commerce students, followed by students from the Faculties of Informatics, Engineering and Health and Behavioural Sciences. This year-long program is designed to increase the employability of UOW students. More information is available on the International Prospective Student website: http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/index.html Click on Careers and Work Experience.

Documentary requirements for processing applications and CoE’s

In order to ensure that we can promptly assess your students’ applications, please be sure to submit all the documents required. These differ by country and you can find details of the requirements for documents and certification, as well as package offer payment requirements and other admissions guidelines, in the Agency Agreement – Guidelines section of the Representative’s website. See http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/aaguidelines/index.html

Applications for University accommodation – CLOSING SOON

Applications for university accommodation in Spring semester are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is 1 May. See the Accommodation Services website at http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/ for further information. All students who wish to apply for university accommodation need to fill out the application form.
UniAdvice Staff Update

As we mentioned in the previous Agent Link, Janet Holen is now International Marketing Coordinator for Wollongong College Australia. Ms Christie Pike has now commenced in Janet’s former role of Marketing and Admissions Officer (Australia). Christie can be contacted on 02 4221 3027 or email cpike@uow.edu.au. She will be looking after our Australia and New Zealand-based representatives.

Ms Anna Harris is newly appointed as Admissions Officer with Team 2. Anna will be assisting Team 2 until Babu Howlader returns from Bangladesh in July.

A full contact list of UniAdvice staff is available at:
http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/contact/UOW005089.html

Commission invoices for Autumn session

Agents are reminded that, for Autumn session, only commission invoices that are submitted by the due date of 31 March can be processed and paid by 30 April. We also request that agents send us invoices for any commission payment due for Semester 1 intakes (Autumn, Intake A and Intake B).

Please send invoices for UOW courses directly to Vesna Todorovski (vesna@uow.edu.au). Please send invoices for WCA courses directly to Melanie Zicker (melanie@uow.edu.au).

Study Abroad and other non-award study programs

We are seeing an interest from a number of institutions, and agents acting on behalf of institutions, seeking information on Study Abroad and associated programs. Traditionally a favourite with students and universities in the United States and Europe, a number of universities from across Asia are seeking information on what Wollongong offers in this area.

Study abroad
This is a program where students who are enrolled in a bachelor degree at their home university can enrol for one semester in 3 or 4 bachelor subjects at the University of Wollongong. Students receive a transcript from the University of Wollongong for their studies here, and these are credited to studies at their home university.

Normally students would have finished at least one year of their bachelor degree, and must reach an equivalent English level of TOEFL 550 (PBT), 213 (CBT) or 79 (iBT) before they start the program.

Wollongong College Australia offers academic English courses which prepare students for this program, and provide an English for Tertiary Studies course which students can take without the need to take a further TOEFL test.

English Plus Uni
This is a variation of the Study Abroad program. Students who are enrolled in a bachelor degree at their home university can enrol in a program at Wollongong College Australia in which they audit 1 or 2 university subjects and at the same time take part-time English language classes. (To “audit” a subject is to attend and participate in classes, but not do the assessment tasks for the subject.)

Students receive a transcript from Wollongong College Australia for their studies.
here, and the home university may choose to credit this program to studies at their home university.

Normally students would have finished at least one year of their bachelor degree, and must reach an equivalent English level of TOEFL 525 (PBT), 195 (CBT) or 70 (iBT) before they start the program.

Wollongong College Australia offers academic English courses which prepare students for the English Plus Uni program.

**Study Tours for credit**
Wollongong College Australia can offer customised study tour programs for groups of students from a college or university. This study tour can consist of English language training and/or academic components and/or leisure and challenge/social research activities. For all or some of the study tour components, the home university may choose to grant credit exemptions.

*Details of itineraries can be found in the WCA Study Tour brochure (also available in Japanese and Korean)*

*Details of the Study Abroad program can be found at [http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/studyabroad/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/studyabroad/index.html)*


*Both Study Abroad and English Plus Uni are featured in our WCA/UOW Japanese, Korean, Chinese (Taiwan), Chinese (Hong Kong), and Chinese (PRC) brochures*

**Faculty of Engineering Newsletter**

The April edition of the Faculty of Engineering Newsletter is attached.
Every international full-fee student who achieves the equivalent* of 93% or above in their year 12 examinations, will be automatically awarded at the time of commencement in a Faculty of Engineering Bachelor program to:

- $AUD3,000 per annum for two years
- $AUD1,000 travel grant (for study abroad)
- Access to Bachelor Advanced programs, accelerated learning and completion, postgraduate seminars, research projects in place of coursework elective modules

The Top 10 Students in the Scholarship program, based on Weighted Average Mark (WAM) at the end of each university year will be guaranteed a paid work placement during the summer vacation period with a minimum value of $AUD5,000 if employed by UOW and substantially higher if employed by industry.

Students must maintain a WAM of 75 or greater over the course of each academic year (2 semesters) to retain the Faculty scholarship

**APPLICATION**

You do not need to complete an additional application form for the scholarship. Students will be advised by the Faculty Sub-Dean whether they were successful for the scholarship at the same time they receive their written offer letter admitting them into the bachelor program.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must

- Have completed the equivalent of an Australian Senior School Certificate of Education (Year 12) with specified marks (see reverse for details)
- Demonstrate an appropriate level of English language proficiency
- Have an unconditional offer for a Bachelor program in the Faculty of Engineering

* see reverse for equivalent overseas qualifications
GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL EQUIVALENCE OF AUSTRALIAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE WITH 93%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year 12 Equivalent</th>
<th>Mark Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>UAI/SAM</td>
<td>93% with excellence in Mathematics and Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>ICSE/CBSE</td>
<td>85% in all academic subjects and at least 85% in Mathematics and Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>STPM (New)</td>
<td>Minimum of 3 A or A– grades (must include Mathematics and/or Physics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
<td>Senior High School—Year 3</td>
<td>90% average in four academic subjects which must include Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry or Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>A-Levels</td>
<td>2 A's in Mathematics and Physics</td>
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</tbody>
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MORE INFORMATION
For more information about the scholarship as well as further equivalent overseas qualifications please visit: www.uow.edu.au/engineering/ProspectiveStudents or contact the Engineering Faculty Office
A recent comprehensive analysis of the qualifications of the Chief Executives of the top 500 companies in the USA shows that a large number had engineering degrees. In fact those with Engineering degrees (21%) well outnumbered the next most common degree (Economics) at 15%, followed by Business Administration (13%).

The companies surveyed were those in the authoritative ‘Standard and Poor’s 500’ ranking of the largest 500 companies in USA. The analysis was performed by the company ‘Spencer Stuart’, founded in 1956. Spencer Stuart is an executive search consulting firm and publishes a ‘Route to the Top’ report every year (the full report for 2007 is at http://www.spencerstuart.com).

So this is clear evidence that many of the world’s largest companies choose engineers to lead them. It is sometimes thought that an engineering degree trains people only to be designers and builders of advanced equipment and systems, but Faculties of Engineering at modern Universities pay a lot of attention to the development of team building skills, interpersonal skills and general management skills in their engineering students.

The same creative, logical and analysis skills which are essential for successful engineering are also very appropriate for financial, strategic and personnel management. This is confirmed by the facts; this study demonstrates that successful companies in today’s world need engineers at the top.

There is a wealth of additional information also in this report. For example, about 2/3 of all the top 500 CEO’s have a higher degree (eg a Master’s or PhD). So a positive attitude to continuing education seems to be a very good thing as far as careers in senior management are concerned. The MBA was a popular choice for a second degree, although 27% had degrees other than an MBA, and a substantial number of CEO’s without MBA’s had a PhD. Our Faculty runs 2 major course work degrees, in Engineering Management (MEM) and in Engineering Practice (MEP) and we currently have nearly 200 PhD students, so we are offering a very appropriate range of choices for people interested in senior management.

Another interesting detail from the report is that ‘Operations’ was the most common job performed by CEO’s immediately before their appointment as CEO. ‘Operations’ refers to that part of a company which deals with real world transactions, products, R&D and customers. In other words there is no short cut to the top; you need to be good at something first before you can become a good manager! So my advice for young adults from school who are interested in senior management is that they should strive to become excellent at a relevant profession, such as engineering, and then develop a ‘hands on’ track record with Industry.

Also, it’s important to understand the need for continuing education and to obtain appropriate higher degrees after a first degree. If you choose engineering you will be prepared for either state-of-the-art technology development, or for senior management. An engineering degree gives you many options, including being a CEO - the world is your oyster! Good Luck!

Japanese Visitors

Professors Kitamura, Amanai and Noto from Tokuyama College of Technology in Japan, visited the Faculty of Engineering in February 2008. The aim of their visit was to explore the possibility of sending practicum students to study with us. A tour of the Faculty was organised which proved extremely successful and the visitors were very impressed, particularly with the SAE car. A number of staff gave presentations including A/ Professor Bob Wheway, Mr Iain Lockie, Dr Wei-hua Li, Dr Oliver Kennedy and A/ Professor Muhammad Hadi. Two students from the SAE team also gave excellent presentations.

The visitors then toured the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering and met the Head of School, Professor Fazel Naghdy.

Dean’s Spot

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PhD student Phil Commins, a postgraduate student in Engineering, has recently received a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DADD) scholarship, to study for six months in Germany at the University of Stuttgart (UoS).

The scholarship is awarded by the German Academic Exchange Service and will enable Phil to undertake collaborative research applicable to his PhD. At UoS, Phil will be working with linear direct drives and looking at different methods of control and working with a variety of machinery. Phil is supervised by Professor Chris Cook. If time permits Phil may also travel to other universities such as Hannover for a short time to experience what they have to offer.

Research News

The research outcome from collaboration between Associate Professor Guoxiu Wang, Dr. Xinglong Gou, Dr. Juan Yang, Dr. Jinsuo Park and Dr. David Wexler from the School of MMM and ISEM has been selected for publication in the Journal of Materials Chemistry (Vol. 18, Issue 9, 7 March 2008). The photo of the “Hyper-branched copper oxide nanoribbons for gas sensor applications” has also been chosen for the front cover of the journal. The Journal of Materials Chemistry is a prestigious journal in Materials Science with an impact factor of 4.287.

Chemical sensing plays an important role both in industry and in our daily life. In particular, precise detection of explosive, chemical and biological warfare agents is critical to national defence and security.

This research clearly demonstrated that nanostructures are a leap ahead of the current sensor technology.

Congratulations

Two ISEM postgraduate students have been recognised by the Chinese government for their achievements while studying at UOW.

Mr Zhengwei Zhao, supervised by Professor Liu, and Mr Dapeng Chen, supervised by A/Professor Wang, have received the 2008 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad. The China Scholarships Council sponsors the award which recognises top Chinese students undertaking full-time research training overseas and working towards a research-based doctoral degree. It also aims to encourage these students to contribute to and strengthen their ties with their homelands.

To qualify, students must be Chinese, under 40 years of age and have been studying in a PhD program for at least one year at a university or accredited institution.

At a special ceremony held recently at the Chinese Consulate in Sydney, Zhengwei and Dapeng each received a certificate of honour and a cheque for US$5,000.

Student Profile

Together with her sister Natasha, Nishara from UOW’s Faculty of Engineering is a truly international scholar. They have studied in Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and most recently, Australia, in pursuit of their respective goals. Nishara came to the University of Wollongong (UOW) to study a Bachelor of Engineering with a major in materials after her sister had come to study the MBA at UOW. “I got to know about UOW and its reputation through my sister (who had previously studied at the University of Wollongong – Dubai Campus) and was studying here in Wollongong”.

As well as being a global traveller and scholar, Nishara is also heavily involved in campus life, working for UniCentre from time to time and as an active member of the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA), Mechanical, Materials and Nanotech Society (MetSoc), and the Zine Club. Nishara hopes to use her materials engineering skills to conduct further research and development into artificial muscles and polymer actuators.

International experience is now highly regarded in today’s top engineering firms, job prospects in international engineering firms in Dubai is a motivation for Nishara to obtain an honours degree from UOW’s Engineering Faculty. This underscores the importance for all engineering students to take a portion of their studies in an international context. Information on how engineering students can take a period of study overseas can be found on the international exchange website: http://www.uow.edu.au/student/exchange/ or by visiting the Engineering Enquiries Centre.

Diary Dates

8 April Faculty Committee
15 April CME Safety Committee
22 April WAC Committee
29 April CME School Committee