

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



OUR STORIES
CONNECT:
UOW

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
FROM SOUTH ASIA

A photograph of two men, Adam Gilchrist and Prof Paul Wellings, standing in front of the Sydney Opera House. They are both wearing dark suits and ties. Adam Gilchrist is on the left, and Prof Paul Wellings is on the right. They are standing on a balcony with a decorative railing. The Sydney Opera House is visible in the background through a large archway.

“ For the past four years, I have been representing the University of Wollongong as an Ambassador.

Wollongong is a place that is very multicultural and welcoming to a wide range of international students. I have spent time on the University of Wollongong campus walking around and meeting many South Asian students—all of them loved studying and living in Wollongong. I believe it's a great option for international students.

It is important to know that UOW graduates are highly regarded by employers. This booklet provides just a few examples of experiences of Indian students and their employment outcomes. I invite you to share their experiences.

Adam Gilchrist AM
UOW Ambassador



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ABOUT WOLLONGONG

Wollongong is a seaside city located in the Illawarra region of New South Wales, Australia. It is the third largest city in New South Wales and the ninth largest city in Australia. Wollongong is also known as Australia's City of Innovation and is now emerging as an important knowledge services centre, international trade hub and a leading University City. It's a vibrant and welcoming community where you can achieve your best.

CITY OF INNOVATION

Historically, Wollongong's economy was centred around industry, and it continues to employ a large number of skilled graduates from UOW. Another effect of this industrial past is Wollongong's cultural diversity. The pristine environment and availability of work attracted migrant workers from all over the world to make their homes in Wollongong. When UOW started enrolling a diverse mix of international students in the 1980s, Wollongong was already a place of many languages, cuisines, religions and customs.

Today, Wollongong boasts a rich cultural calendar and attracts the attention of international businesses, which are opening offices in the area, including at UOW's Innovation Campus.

WOLLONGONG IN NUMBERS

80 kilometres to
central Sydney

2.4 kilometres to
North Wollongong beach
from main campus

22 °C average
daily
temperature

27 °C average
summer
temperature

456,724 population of
Illawarra area



THE CAMPUS

Our Wollongong campus combines modern teaching and study spaces on 83 hectares of landscaped Australian bushland. We have created a campus that includes academic support, accommodation, sports, culture and entertainment—everything you need to completely experience campus life. At UOW, we've created a haven of learning, where you can focus on your education.



UOW IN NUMBERS

29,736 total student enrolment (2012)

108,000 UOW Alumni

144 partner universities for exchange and study abroad

467 degrees on offer

92 % of students indicated that they would recommend UOW in 2011





At UOW you can study in a **clean, healthy environment** that combines the benefits of an **active Australian lifestyle** with the resources of an **international university**. You'll find **peace and quiet** when you need to focus on your education. When you want to **work together and make new friends** you'll find yourself in a welcoming community filled with people **from over 140 countries**.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

AN EDUCATION EMPLOYERS RESPECT

For the fifth year in a row, UOW was ranked in the top 100 universities in the world for how its graduates are rated by their employers in the QS Employer Reputation Index: 92nd in the world, and eighth in Australia. We've also earned the maximum five stars for graduate outcomes and getting a job in the Australian Good Universities Guide (2012)—for the thirteenth year in a row.

PRACTICAL LEARNING AT UOW

At UOW our degrees will make you ready for the international workforce. Many of our degrees contain practical learning opportunities, where you can put your knowledge to the test. We also offer a number of extracurricular careers programs to help you get the job you want.

GLOBAL WORKPLACE PRACTICE (GWP100)

www.uow.edu.au/careers/wlp/CGWP

GWP100 is an intensive 11-week program that will give you job search skills and career management strategies to succeed in Australian and international workplaces. GWP100 is a free extracurricular program available to all international students.

You'll have the chance to:

- Understand the culture of Australian and international employers and workmates, and how best to work with them
- Understand the Australian job search process, and how best to look for and potentially obtain a job in Australia
- Seek work experience placements with employers in Sydney, the Illawarra region and other possible locations
- Develop the English language skills necessary for Australian and international workplaces



LEARN ON THE JOB

One of the best ways to learn is to get out and try it for yourself. At UOW, we've integrated practical learning into many of our degrees. You'll get to put your classroom knowledge to the test—and then learn from your experiences with the support of your teachers.

All undergraduate engineering, education, law, nursing and some informatics degrees include compulsory practical learning in the form of internships or work placements.

The UOW Faculty of Arts offers competitive internship programs for high-achieving students, and is a partner to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in the United States.

First-year undergraduate engineering students participate in the Engineers Without Borders design challenge, working to design solutions for problems in real communities around the world.

The UOW Centre for Student Engagement is affiliated with a number of volunteer and community organisations. Students can join these programs through practical learning subjects in some degrees.

UOW CAREERS CENTRAL

www.uow.edu.au/careers

UOW career counsellors are available to help you build up your job-seeking skills so that you can graduate confident, skilled, and ready to start your career.

Internships

Careers Central offers a number of competitive internship programs for placements.

Mentoring

Academic and professional mentoring programs including LUCY leadership mentoring for female students.

Job skills training

Workshops on interview techniques, job search skills and professional resume reviews.

Team challenges

Workplace learning programs where teams of students cooperate to address real briefs from local businesses.

WORK WHILE YOU STUDY

An international student visa allows you to work 20 hours per week during university session and full-time during session breaks. You can register for work and receive alerts through UOW's My JobBoard and popular job-seeking websites including www.seek.com.au, www.mycareer.com.au and www.careerone.com.au



GET INVOLVED IN STUDENT LIFE



At UOW, there's a number of ways to connect with new friends while you study.

THE CENTRE FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Runs a number of leadership, training, community engagement and environmental programs designed to give you the chance to learn new things and apply yourself to real world challenges.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

This program provides events and activities for UOW International Students, including English conversation groups, friendship programs and sightseeing tours.

UOW SOUTH ASIAN STUDENTS ON FACEBOOK

UOW South Asian Students page on Facebook is a community for Indians, Pakistanis, Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankans to share their experiences and knowledge of life at the University of Wollongong. It is a good place to network and make new friends. Go to www.facebook.com/uowsas for more.

EVENTS

UOW hosts a range of events throughout the year that you can get involved in. **Bollywood in Wollongong** was held in March and saw thousands of people on the Wollongong campus to celebrate Indian culture.

Towards the end of each year, UOW hosts a celebrity cricket match to raise funds for medical research, **Stumping Serious Diseases**. This event sees UOW Ambassador Adam Gilchrist join other cricketing greats, local identities and UOW faces to play a 20/20 cricket match. Funds raised go to vital health and medical research at UOW, in particular local children's health.

Students can also enjoy the Bollywood music at the local Wollongong club called Hostage organised by an Indian student group, 'Cipher Events'.

INDIAN AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (IACA)

IACA is a non-profit oriented community association based in Wollongong. The primary objective of the association is to provide a forum for the Indian community to participate in cultural activities and preserve the Indian culture and traditions.

Independent regional communities such as Gujarati community, Telegu community and Malayalam community conduct social gatherings and celebrate festivals.

CURRENT STUDENT STORIES



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UOW is indeed
a home away
from home

Rais Dadarkar

**Master of Science (Logistics)
Master of International Business – 2011**

My vision and passion for quality education brought me to UOW and my journey has been great so far. I completed the Master of International Business from UOW in 2011 and chose the Master of Science (Logistics) with the Sydney Business School for my second degree as it was accredited by The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, as well as the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

During my studies I worked part-time, where I was able to integrate with the local community making it easier for me to embrace the new culture.

I am primarily studying at the Innovation Campus in Wollongong. Its landscape and infrastructure are distinguished by the latest in high tech and sustainable design. I also enjoy my weekly classes at the Sydney campus, as its location is in the heart of the city. UOW is indeed a home away from home and every minute of my time spent at UOW has been incredible.



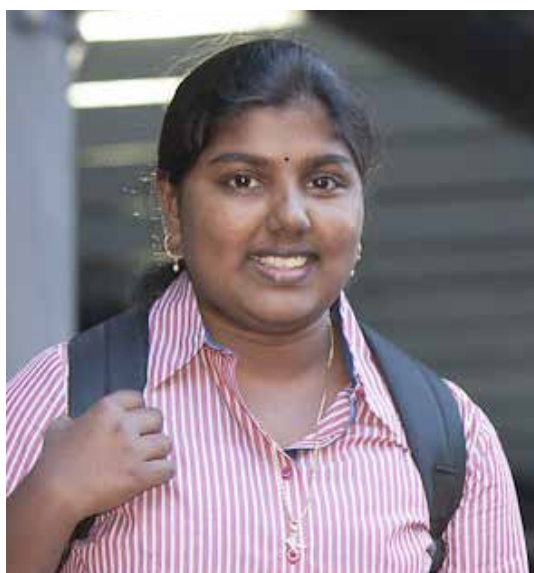
Abhijith Anand

Master of Information Systems and Technology – Research

I am currently finishing my last year of Masters Research at UOW under some of the finest professors in the world. While I remain at the university, I am happy to be learning something innovative every day and pursue a career in research. I am fascinated by the idea of finding out something new that nobody has before.

My personal experience at UOW is if you know what you want and look for it, you will find it. As a student, it is important that our theoretical and practical learning go hand in hand. I believe UOW provides the skills and qualities for students that helps them get ready for the 'real world'. It is a great privilege to be a student at UOW.

I am currently working on my thesis which aims to investigate the current technological challenges faced in healthcare, and the role of IT in healthcare transformation towards better patient care and treatment quality. I am also working as a tutor in the Faculty of Informatics and teaching two subjects.



Karunya Sankar Kumar

Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical)

UOW is well known in the industrial community for its excellent Faculty of Engineering. It ranks among the top universities, which prompted me to apply and join here.

Another major factor is its location. Wollongong is a stunning beach-side city with scenic beauty of the mountains, which definitely makes it one of the best places to study and live in Australia.

I won two scholarships while studying: the Undergraduate Excellence Scholarship (UES) and an Engineering scholarship for my Bachelor degree. I am very thankful to the people here for recognising my high school results and for these prestigious awards.

I am aspiring to become a design engineer and I am very much confident about becoming one with all the experienced engineering faculty staff here at UOW.



Clifford Lewis

PhD, Faculty of Commerce

Bachelor of Commerce Honours (Marketing) – 2010

I started my degree at the University of Wollongong in Dubai and completed it in UOW Australia. I experienced UOW at both campuses comprising of a diverse culture and independent living. UOW is not just about education, but overall development.

During my degree, I won the Services Marketing Prize, the Consumer Behaviour Prize and the University Medal for Honours Dissertation in the Faculty of Commerce. Later, I was offered a PhD admission with a scholarship called the International Post Graduation Tuition Award scholarship.

I aspire to become a commercial researcher. UOW faculty members are extremely skilled and supportive which contributed to my 2011 journal article on 'destination brand components' becoming one of the most downloaded papers of the year in the *International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research*. I think UOW is the reason behind many of my accomplishments and I recommend this five-star University to all students aspiring to study in Australia.

GRADUATE STORIES



Nischith Kashyap

Master of Engineering Practice in Engineering Management and Mechanical Engineering, 2011
Simulation Consultant, Simulation Modelling Services (SMS), Newcastle

Engineers are highly sought after in Australia and Australian qualifications enjoy a good reputation globally. The Faculty of Engineering at UOW is an associate member of the Go8 (Group of Eight) universities in Australia, which provides a competitive edge and added value to my degree.

UOW played an important role in honing my skills to achieve my career goals. I was part of an active university social and community life. I served as the Vice-President of the Wollongong Indian Student Association (WISA). WISA assists students with information and support needed to settle down in Wollongong, which is a beautiful city with great lifestyle.

I was interested in oil and gas aspects of mechanical engineering until I was introduced to Modelling and Simulation subjects in my Masters degree. During my studies at UOW, I was working for SMART (Simulation, Modelling, Analysis Research and Teaching), which is the national centre for infrastructure solutions.

I completed my Masters degree with Distinction in 2011. I found full-time employment within a month of graduating. I am delighted to be working for SMS who are the pioneers in the Modelling and Simulation Industry in Australia. I provide management consulting service to ports, mining, and manufacturing industries, based on findings from software based simulation and modelling. This job is a dream come true to me as I am passionate about simulation and modelling.



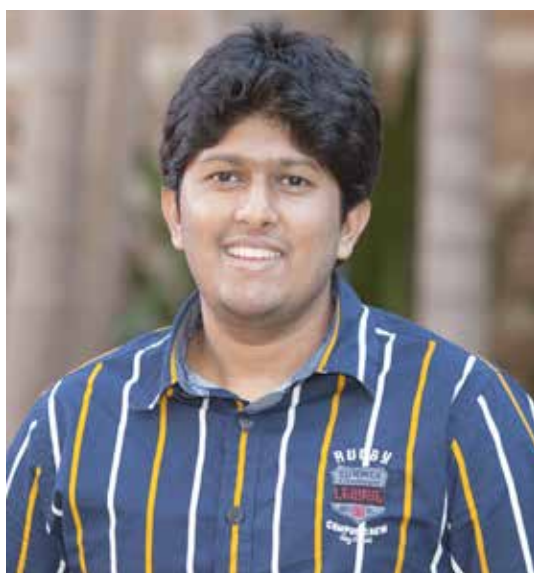
Diwas Rimal

Master of Commerce, Master of Professional Accounting, 2011
Finance and Administration Manager, Sustainable Building Research Centre at UOW, Wollongong

Since graduation, I have been involved with the Sustainable Building Research Centre at UOW. I will be working in a building that is exemplary not only to Wollongong but it is one of its kind in Australia, operating on a net zero energy level, gaining the Living Building status through its self sustaining model. This is a research facility that will put Wollongong and UOW right at the centre of sustainable building research around the world!

Currently I am working on a US Department of Energy initiative Solar Decathlon China 2013 project: a multimillion-dollar project that focuses in retrofitting Australian fibro homes for sustainable living. I am a Finance and Administration Manager in this project overlooking economic modelling, project budgeting, capital raising and procurement amongst other responsibilities. This position throws me right at the centre of my field of study, and provides me with an opportunity to learn what would have taken me years to reach in any other role.

I chose UOW for its location and academic excellence. The UOW campus had everything that I was looking for to accompany my studies, and what a journey it has been!



Gautham Sukumaran

Master of Engineering Practice
(Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering), 2010
Mechanical Engineer, Gujarat NRE Wonga, Wollongong

Gujarat NRE Wonga is an underground coal mine. My role involves reactive and proactive maintenance, along with project management.

UOW is a great university with fantastic graduate outcomes. My hands were always full in my uni days. I completed the Certificate of Global Workplace Practice (CGWP), secured a summer internship for 3 months with 'Sydney Water', was a team leader in the Univariate program and I also worked on an Engineering project called the Chemical Dosing Project. I was also a student mentor in the Faculty of Engineering.

UOW has a diverse culture. When I first attended the Global Highway event at UOW, I was amazed to see people from so many nationalities on a common platform. I enjoyed student life and even had the opportunity to play in a cricket match with Adam Gilchrist!



Muhammad Hammad Aman

Master of Applied Finance and Master of Professional Accounting, 2010
Reporting Analyst, Stellar Asia Pacific, Wollongong

I chose UOW because of its reputation and courses. I received offers from many Universities but after my research everything in UOW suited me the most. I passed with Distinction and won the Dean's Recognition award from the Faculty of Commerce for achieving the highest score in Banking Theory and Practice in the year 2010.

While I was studying, I started working with the Inter Continental Hotel Group in Sydney as a sales representative, which helped me socialise and understand the local culture. I actively took assistance from the UOW Careers Central team and participated in the Certificate of Global Workplace Practice program. The team assisted me to build a resume suitable for Australia.

Currently I work as a Reporting Analyst at Stellar Asia Pacific, a major client of Telstra. My major role is statistical reporting along with components of financial reporting. The learnings from my degree have enhanced my confidence in my role. Within three and a half months of starting, I was promoted to my current role and I believe my UOW Finance degree helped me fast track my career.

Sridevi Shetty

Master of Science (Population Health), 2010
Senior Resident Medical Officer, Wollongong Hospital

Wollongong is a great place to live and UOW offers very good and comprehensive courses. The staff are very supportive and encouraging as well.

I chose UOW because it offered very comprehensive courses in the health field and also for its proximity to Sydney. The course was very helpful to learn about the Australian health system and learn about research methodology.

I am currently involved in a cardiology project at Wollongong Hospital and the course has definitely helped me to do this. I now plan to get involved in research, after I've chosen my Advance Training specialty, which I think will be Medical Oncology. I am sure my Masters experience will be useful for me.



Manik Babuta

Master of Professional Engineering (Telecommunications Engineering)
Project Engineer, Kordia Solutions, Sydney

My organisation is a leading company in the telecommunications sector. My role involves liaising with clients and subcontractors in order to ensure sites are completed in the stipulated timeframe. I quote jobs given by our client and organise resources and materials to get the job done.

Study and internships through UOW certainly played their part for me in securing my current role. My employers were aware of the excellent standard of study at UOW. The internship organised by UOW definitely played its part for me to get this job and it will always remain as foundation stone of my career.

I opted for UOW because of the excellent course structure and calm study atmosphere. The University organised an internship for eight students in the course, which is very rare in Australian universities.



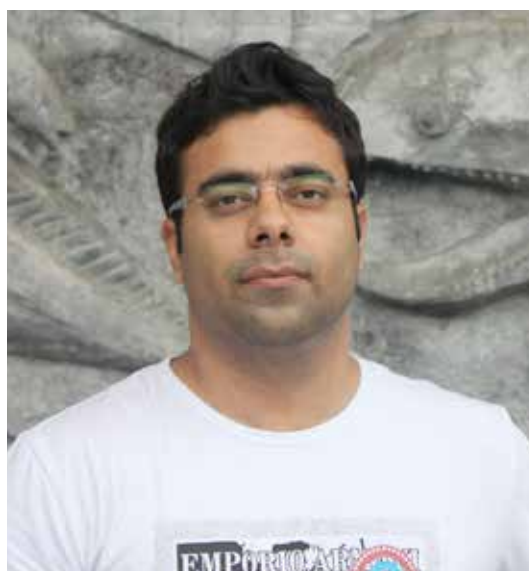
Nikhil Razdan


Master of Engineering Practice (Double major)-Engineering Management, 2011
Assistant Manager – Production, Frigoglass, China

My main reason for choosing UOW was the quality of education, but also the cost of living in Wollongong.

UOW went above all my expectations in every aspect. After completing my course, I decided to settle back in India. I knew from the beginning that it was going to be very tough for me to find a job in India due to its highly competitive environment. I found, though, that my course gave me a cutting edge to go through the rigorous interview process.

Frigoglass is a leading player in ice-cold merchandising. I joined the company as an International Management trainee for 15 months in various departments. Presently I am working as Assistant Manager in Production and in parallel I am also handling efficiency improvement projects within the company.



A portrait of Pandurang Kamath, a man with dark, curly hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing other people and greenery.

Pandurang Kamath

**Master of Applied Finance and Master of Professional Accounting, 2011
Business Manager –Accounts Division for Medco Petroleum Pty Ltd, Port Kembla**

Medco Petroleum imports quality refined petroleum products, distributing them to service stations, businesses and homes, and markets customer-oriented quality services. I got this job in just a month after I graduated from UOW.

I chose to do a Master of Applied Finance at UOW because it is recognised by the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FINSIA) and the MPA because it is accredited by CPA as well as the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. My degree from UOW helped me get my accounting accreditation from these professional bodies and therefore got my Permanent Residency in no time.

As a student I worked part time for 20 hours at Domino's Pizza as well as tutoring students. I balanced my study and fun time by participating in Indian cultural activities. The workshops at Careers Central enhanced my personality and gave me confidence to apply for jobs.

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The workshops at Careers Central... gave me confidence to apply for jobs.

Nithin Kuriakose

Master of Information & Communication Technology, 2008
Project Manager, Infosys

My current job is with one of India's leading IT companies, Infosys Ltd, who specialise in consulting, technology and outsourcing. I work as a Project Manager in one of their client sites in Sydney to manage the delivery of enterprise applications and process improvements. My core domain is enabling new technologies in an enterprise to achieve and increase productivity, resource utilisation and revenue outcome.

I was offered the role because of my experience and the tertiary education attained.

Before this job, I worked for Accenture. As a part of an alliance between UOW and Accenture, I was offered a job, so I got to work part-time while still attending my regular classes, all on the UOW campus.



Ravi Daga

Master of Information Systems, 2002
Master of Business Administration, 2007
International & Business Reporting Manager, Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences, UOW

My role at UOW is very varied. My responsibilities include tasks such as marketing to and recruiting future students, strategic advice and analysis on Internationalisation policies and procedures, developing faculty internationalisation strategies and overseeing international collaboration.

UOW was originally suggested to me as a place to study by an agent. What I liked about what the agent told me about Wollongong was the fact that it was not a big city like Sydney and Melbourne but at the same time, it was not completely cut off. It is just 90mins by car or train to the Sydney CBD so I could have the best of both worlds.

UOW is a world class University but still small enough for students to get personalised attention, be that academic or administrative.



Numan Ali

Master of Engineering Practice (Mining Engineering), 2009
Geologist, BHP Billiton (Iron Ore), Perth

After completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in Pakistan, my quest was to pursue a Masters degree in the same field. The UOW degree was most suitable, and the student friendly culture of Wollongong City was appealing.

After I completed my course, securing a job was the next step, which proved to be an easy process with the valuable guidance of my faculties and Careers Central at UOW. I received help developing my resume and responding to the application requirements for jobs. This all helped me secure my first job at BHP Billiton Iron Ore.

UOW has always been renowned in their graduate employability ratings, which was evident when I met some UOW graduates in my organisation. The value and quality of UOW are recognised globally across the industries. I am deeply satisfied with my overall experience at UOW.





Vikas Polugari

Master of Professional Engineering, 2011
Site Maintenance Engineer, Crown Castle Australia

Crown Castle Australia is a well-known telecommunications company known for maintaining and building telecommunications infrastructure.

Prior to joining Crown Castle, I worked as a graduate surveillance engineer at Huawei Technologies Australia.

I am so thankful that I chose UOW. The reason I choose to study there is that it's among the best universities and for its reputation in offering top class education. It had all the qualities needed to make a good university such as great infrastructure, a wide range of courses to choose from, top class faculty and the best thing about UOW is that it's isolated from the busy city atmosphere, a perfect atmosphere for study life.

During my course, apart from my major telecommunications subjects I was also taught about how to face interviews, expectations of an interviewer and how to answer the questions in an interview. This helped me to enhance my technical and interview skills to a high measure. As a part of the course I was offered an internship at NSW Government Radio Networks, by UOW, which was starting and a major breakthrough in my career. It helped me to get my first job as a Surveillance Engineer.

Personally I would say that UOW is the best university, across all aspects. I enjoyed every single moment of my time at Wollongong.



Vidiya Ramachandran

Master of Science, Biotechnology, 1998
Lecturer, Faculty of Science, UOW, Wollongong

After completing my Bachelor of Science degree in Bangalore, I joined the University of Wollongong to complete a Master of Science degree in Biotechnology. What attracted me to choose UOW were its research strengths and the high calibre of the teaching staff in the Faculty of Science. After completing my Masters degree, I went on to pursue my dream of obtaining a doctoral degree in Microbiology from UOW. I enjoyed the many challenges associated with research and having supportive supervisors in the School of Biological Sciences.

My research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and I have presented my work at several national and international conferences. My post doctoral study at UOW paved the way to advance my research career and also contributed to receiving the prestigious Endeavour Research Fellowship in 2009.

UOW will always have a special place in my heart, because apart from the knowledge, experience, opportunities and friendships it has presented to me, this is where I met my husband. My journey at UOW is still continuing after 14 years and I hope that my love affair with UOW will continue for many more years to come.

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I was able to work in a professional environment while still a student and interact with many cultures, environments and people.

Swati Dharmaraj

Master of Management, 2010
Program Coordinator, Centre for Student
Engagement, University of Wollongong

In addition to its strong reputation, UOW offered an excellent environment for me to pursue my studies. The various facilities and programs at the uni, allowed me to put to use the skills I learnt through my academics as a Master of Management student.

Work and education experience is very important while looking for a job. Working as a Program Coordinator at International House, one of UOW's residential campuses definitely helped me a great deal in acquiring this experience. I was able to work in a professional environment while still a student and interact with many cultures, environments and people. While there still was a learning curve once I graduated, I was a lot more confident going into the workforce than I would've been without this experience. I always encourage students to participate in volunteering and leadership activities at uni as this gives them that edge.

The Centre for Student Engagement (CSE) is a part of UniCentre that provides services for students at the University of Wollongong. My colleagues and I at CSE organise activities and events such as O-Week, International Week, Clubs Day, Leadership Conferences and Volunteering opportunities for students. My role primarily involves coordinating leadership programs at the uni helping students gain leadership skills and put them to practice by getting involved with volunteer projects.



LEARN MORE

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The University of Wollongong attempts to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production (November 2012); however, sections may be amended without notice by the University in response to changing circumstances or for any other reason. You should check with the University at the time of application/ enrolment whether any later information is available.

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