

Tell us about the highlights of your course & the subjects you enjoyed?

Rachana: I have completed a Masters in Applied IT recently and I believe that the flexibility in course structure was the greatest highlight of my course, as it allows for customization to personal needs. I wanted to change the focus of my IT career to development and hence did a lot of programming and software engineering subjects. The course allowed me to choose units from across the entire faculty and major in whatever area I liked. I especially enjoyed the .NET and the Network Computing in Java subjects as the content was current and the topics covered brought us abreast with the IT industry.



Rachana (front) & Iris (back) Careers Fair Assistants

Brenda: What I really like about the Master of Business Systems course that I am currently enrolled in is the flexibility to pursue different areas of interest, from database and network management, to risk and business case development. Unlike many degrees that concentrate on theory and memorizing facts, the focus here is on relating and applying the coursework to actual or theoretical technical and business cases, working in teams and individually to produce sound recommendations and presenting our work professionally, just like we would in the real world. Some examples of the projects I really enjoyed included managing a portfolio of 10 investment shares in real time and working in a team on a business case to assess the company and related industries, then recommending IT and other management solutions to improve the business, not unlike management consultants in reality.

Mai: As a Business Systems student, I've enjoyed studying a diverse range of subjects including Management, Programming and Business Communications. Business Systems students are encouraged to undertake elective subjects from other faculties in addition to the course's broad combination of technical and non-technical subjects.

I was able to utilise the skills and knowledge I acquired from these subjects through the experience of an Industry Based Learning placement. I oversaw challenging projects and worked with staff & clients in a professional environment. The placement provided me with a very steep learning curve.

Nino: I am doing a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance). My course focuses primarily on both areas of studies; however I am interested in majoring into Accounting. I enjoyed studying law subjects such as: business law and currently undertaking company law. I also find that my core accounting units have been the most challenging, but also interesting for me as I would like to pursue a future career in commerce.

Boris: I have enjoyed doing programming subjects the most. The reason I enjoy programming so much is because I am a very patient person who likes working hard on something to see good results. This gives me a sense of accomplishment. I enjoy being creative when working on my programming assignments and like to explore different ways in which the task can be achieved most effectively.



Boris assisting with the Careers Fair survey

Sarah My degree is Business (Management) / Law. The combination of business and law is excellent for students who aspire to all types of corporate work. The management degree focuses on more general areas with an emphasis on the realities of the business environment. This complements the law degree by giving a background to subjects such as corporation law – however the skills required by the degrees are very different as is the workloads.

Tell us about your extracurricular activities or clubs you have enjoyed?

Brenda: Right now, I am an intern in the MONSEACS Internship Program, participating and working with other interns and the Internship coordinator to ensure the smooth running of the Graduate Careers Fairs and development of a careers newsletter. I am also an active member of MUMSU, Monash University Malaysian Students' Union. Through these activities, I have had the opportunity to use my effective communication skills, working together with others to get things done, meeting students from different faculties and universities and enjoying the fun side of university life.

Mai: I participate in mixed-Volleyball and mixed-Tennis matches on a weekly basis. The teams were originally formed amongst friends & colleagues and we've been playing in tournaments for the past few years. I love the fact that it's both very fun and competitive. Keeping active has helped me to maintain a good work-play balance and I've found that can study much more effectively.

Rachana: Over the period of my course I was involved in several extracurricular activities such as HEWSO, Monash Open day etc and held positions on the committees of several clubs, thus enjoying a well-rounded University experience. Being part of Aiesec Monash and CSSE Club inculcated team ethics and greatly improved upon my professional skills which I am sure will assist me throughout my career. Also social events organized by these clubs as well as others such as MDS etc were a great way of making new friends and having some fun.

Nino: I have involved myself in several societies and clubs formed in Monash Clayton campus, those are: ICM, Navigator, Asean club and ECSS. I find that by joining those clubs I am becoming aware of what other students want to pursue in their lives, as well as enjoying myself to various fun activities; including: sport events, movies or just merely going out to enjoy social gatherings.

Boris: I am very happy with the sporting facilities and activities that Monash University provides for its' students. I have enjoyed being a member and president of the Monash

Brazilian Ju-Jitsu Club. I am also happy with the Monash University gym, and availability of the badminton courts.

Sarah: Joining the MMS (Monash Marketing Society) in 1st year was a great opportunity to meet fellow students and gain industry contacts

What is your current career goal?

Boris: I would like to get enough experience in the IT industry in order to consider myself an expert programmer. My goal is to be a valuable asset to a major software company and move onto a management role within the next couple of years.

Nino: My current career goal is to be accepted in a vacation employment, especially in the companies that are relevant to my course of studies. By involving myself with other students who are already in the final years (usually third or fourth) of their studies at Monash, I have gathered many useful information of how to prepare myself in meeting the requirements of employers. The internship program at MONSEACS also helped me in various ways through seminars and employment fairs.

Sarah: Obtain graduate employment

Mai: My aim is to be continuously learning by performing diverse roles in the Business-IT workforce. I intend to maintain a very flexible career by developing a broad skill-set of both technical and soft qualities. Gradually, I will attain further qualifications and certifications and follow that up by pursuing managerial-related roles in the future.

Brenda: My current career goal is to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills that I have acquired in my Bachelor of Biomedical Science and my Master of Business Systems degrees so as to be rewarded with a fulfilling career in business development and management in the medical or healthcare industry.

Rachana: Currently I aspire to get a job as a Software Developer, as I would like to apply the skills learnt at university towards solving problems in the real world



Careers Fair 2003
A Qantas graduate recruiter advising an interested student on opportunities at Qantas

What aspect of your time at Monash helped prepare you for your career?

Nino: I have learnt that in order to succeed as an accountant, it is important to be able to work together in facing many challenges in the work place.

I, like so many friends of mine, used to think that accountants were boring individuals who rarely talked to their workmates and merely worked with long list of ledgers and statement reports all day. However by studying commerce at Monash, such vision is clearly false.

Brenda: I've found that Monash also places great emphasis on individual and team projects and basically student participation in hands-on tutorials related to the subjects and overall course, rather than just memorising information. This method of learning has given me a better understanding of my chosen career in business analysis, where the theory from books is applied to practical and realistic scenarios and assignments, aiding in the transition from studying to working.

Sarah: MONSEACS' career sessions are a great way to understand the recruitment process and are essential for those in their last few years

Rachana: It's impossible to isolate one particular aspect or incident as I think the entire Monash-experience is something that'll help my career in the long run. The course equipped me with technical skills, which can be used in the kind of role I am looking for, and the various other activities and opportunities afforded by Monash have helped in my all-round development as an individual.

Mai: Monash has offered me a challenging yet supportive study environment. I have enjoyed plenty of freedom and responsibility with the knowledge that the university offers services to assist and guide me if required. This environment has encouraged me to use my initiative, to set myself higher goals and Monash has provided me with the tools and resources to achieve them. I believe this has helped prepare me for my career. Employees are not spoon-fed and they are rewarded for their achievements and hard work.

Boris: Learning the practical skills in various subjects I have completed was the best career preparation.



Careers Fair 2003
GE recruitment staff discussing
their graduate program at the Careers Fair

What did you not learn in you studies about your career that you have learnt since?

Mai: The underlying theory, the basic fundamentals that are taught in course subjects seldom change. However, the way this knowledge and information is interpreted, analysed and applied in the commercial business environment does change as organisations continually modify their ways of doing business.

Boris: I have learned about the personal qualities that IT companies look for in their employees. I have also learned some resume writing and interview skills.

Rachana: Having done a completely technical course, the vital area of business communication and other aspects like job-hunting, networking etc were concepts that my course didn't cover. However workshops and courses conducted by MONSEACS and the Short Courses Center were a great help in acquiring the requisite skills and knowledge.

Sarah: The market for graduates is really tough and that marks alone will not get you a job.

Brenda: An interesting thing I've learnt is that although academic performance is an important factor in getting the attention of employers, and emphasis is also placed on vacation or casual employment experiences as well as extra-curricular activities, the one thing that will really help in advancing any career is your attitude. Employers are looking for loyal and enthusiastic individuals, eager and fast learners who won't quit when the going gets tough.



Careers Fairs 2003

Scott Wilson Irwin Johnston graduate recruiters are only too happy to give students all the facts about their graduate program

What did you want to achieve from the internship program and have you achieved it?

Brenda: Some of my expectations when I signed up for the program were to learn effective job searching skills, meet new people, and polish my communication and interpersonal skills. Thus far, I've had the pleasure of getting to know and working with interns from other faculties and sharing fun moments, as well as job-searching tips; furthermore, by participating in the Graduate Careers Fairs, assisting employers and surveying students, I was able to practice my communication and people skills. Finally, in doing research for articles for the newsletter, I learnt a great deal about job hunting strategies and options for graduates, and am now more aware of the opportunities for graduates. The support and advice given to the interns in the program in helping us gain a better understanding of and achieving our career goals has been

tremendous, and thus far, the program has been a very memorable and enlightening experience

Rachana: The main motivation for joining the internship was to be part of an enthusiastic team committed to providing career services and advice to students. I was greatly impressed with the facilities provided MONSEACS and wanted to be a part of their team and assist them in their efforts. The program allowed me to help out with careers fairs and the careers newsletter and also helped me make some great friends. I enjoyed working with the animated team at MONSEACS and gave me a sense of pride to know that I was contributing towards the progress of other students here at Monash.

Sarah: Focus more on my career and look for alternatives. Yes I have achieved this.

Boris: I wanted to get employed or at least gain some experience in a related field. I have not had an opportunity to do that yet but I did learn some skills which should increase my chances of being employed.

Mai: As 2003 is my final year at Monash, I wanted to gain as much information and advice as possible to increase my chances for graduate employment. The MONSEACS internship was my perfect opportunity to do this. The information I attained was invaluable. Without it, I would not have been as well prepared during employer recruitment stages such as behavioural interviews. I believe this was a contributing factor toward my success in being offered a graduate position upon completion of my studies.

Nino: I want to be able to search independently and efficiently for jobs that are suitable for my current studies. I want to make sure that I will have the relevant skills that are necessary to increase my chances of getting the job that I will certainly enjoy. Currently, I am still working on those skills with the help of staff and other students.



Careers Fair 2003
A Department of Education representative
advises students on teaching in the Northern Territory

What advice would you give to your fellow students?

Mai: Students will always be searching for jobs in a tough, competitive environment. However, there are plenty of opportunities waiting for people who possess perseverance, self-confidence, initiative, focus and a genuine desire to achieve.

Nino: My advice to my fellow students would be to enjoy the time at uni and their course of studies. To have a good social life, as well as to be brave in facing the challenges that will most certainly come forward when they leave university. There is no need to despair, as help is available if you know where to look. Just by asking MONSEACS will be a good place to start!

Boris: Be persistent with studying and do not give up if everything seems too hard.

Sarah: Focus on your career, not just on obtaining good marks

Brenda: Study hard, but don't forget to work and play hard too. Not only does working and participation in extracurricular activities give you the opportunity to meet people, earn some cash and enjoy life, they also look great in your resume! Furthermore, don't give up when the going gets tough; take every obstacle as a challenge on the path to improvement so as to maximize your potential.

Rachana: The only advice that I would like to give my fellow students is to try everything once, as you'll never know what you missed unless you try. University is not just about education, it's about overall development as an individual so take advantage of all the opportunities provided to you and experience all that you can as it's bound to help you in one way or another, in your career and in life.



Careers Fairs 2003
Hundreds of final year students attend in March every year to be prepared for the graduate recruitment application due dates in 1st semester.

Edited by Pamela Horlor