

Monash University Careers and Employment Internship 2004

2004 was another great year for the internship program run by Monash University Careers and Employment. This program was expanded to include two intakes one in the first semester for final year students and one in the second semester for pre-final year students.

When the interns finish we like to get their thoughts, views and advice on being a student, studying hard, becoming a graduate and gaining professional employment. Below are their insights from their time at Monash.

Monash University Careers and Employment wishes to thank the Interns of 2004: Elizabeth, Hayley, Melissa, Jessica, Graeme, Nathan, Simon, Virginia, Seng, Steven, Rudi, Amy, Mei, Adam, Ellyana, Aaron, Stephen, and Kate for their fantastic contribution as an intern to this program.

1. Tell us about the highlights of your course and the subjects you enjoyed

The highlights were probably meeting new friends and also learning new things. I found the course challenging and sometimes hard. But with this in mind, I worked hard and have enjoyed most subjects. The practical classes I found very enjoyable, as I have learnt quite a bit from them, but sometimes very stressful because of the hurdles. But I guess if they weren't in place, it wouldn't push us to do our very best. **VIRGINIA**

I enjoy doing my theory and design subjects, because quite often I find it to be more challenging than practical work. In reality, what always happens is that somebody comes up with an idea first, and implementation comes into play later.

Proving the theories' correct is very challenging, as it requires logic, mathematics and a whole lot of other knowledge and skills. To some people it might be "brain cell killing express" - however, I enjoy burning brain cells.☺ **STEVEN**

The best part about my Masters of Information Technology course was that there were no core units involved. This meant that all my subjects were electives and I was able to choose any subjects I wanted within the IT faculty; this gave me enormous flexibility in terms of allowing me to specifically focus on just the software development and management side of IT. Subjects that I have enjoyed most are Project Management and the various multimedia programming units. **SENG**

I am doing a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Banking and Finance. This course mainly involves learning about the financial products offered by the banks, and managing the financial institutions. In this course, I have enjoyed studying the core subjects such as Treasury Management and International Banking and Finance. I find these subjects interesting, as I would like a future career in the finance industry. **RUDI**

I am now doing a Master of Business (Accounting). The course has two streams, which include finance, and CPA streams. I have enjoyed studying in the finance stream. My course is very flexible because there are only four compulsory subjects and twelve free electives. These give me plenty of chances to select subjects that I am interested in. I would like to know more about investment, thus I have chosen to concentrate on investment subjects such as International Investment Management and Advanced Investment. I enjoy these two subjects very much. **NATHAN**

I am currently in second year of Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance) at Clayton Campus. I really enjoy Accounting, as I prefer subjects that require calculating rather than memorising or essay writing. **ELLY**

The course provided me with an opportunity to meet like-minded people who have become friends to this day. The lectures are very informative, providing me with a foundation that will be utilized in my future career. The subjects I enjoyed were Finance and Marketing. **AMY**

My course has had many highlights and I've found the content of some Commerce units interesting and hopefully relevant to practice. I've particularly enjoyed subjects in law, marketing and finance. **ADAM**

I have been at Uni for about six years now (currently staring down the barrel of a seventh and final year ... sympathy is fine ☺) and, as you would imagine, there are many great things that have happened throughout that time.

Now, as a student of a double degree, I think it only fair to name one stand-out subject per degree...

In my Arts degree I will name "Text and Context" as a brilliant subject. Basically it taught me all about ways of making meaning and provided a great number of communication and analytical skills. For my Law degree I will name "Evidence" – this is a fairly unassuming subject that I hear a lot of people only tolerate, however I had an awesome lecturer and that makes all the difference. **AARON**

Undertaking a Bachelor of Commerce degree had many highlights. Going through high school, you sometimes think, "What does this have to do with getting me future employment?" With my degree each subject has contributed to a future career and the skills I have learnt at University are invaluable for future employment. You meet a wide range of people from different cultures all over the world, and you to make friends for life.

Within marketing, I have thoroughly enjoyed every subject, from the lecturers to the actual course work. It shows you how theory can be applied to real world situations and that many organisations implement the theory about which you learn. Sometimes theory can be quite dry. **STEPHEN**

2. Tell us about the clubs and activities you have enjoyed as a student

Being part of the CSSE (now MITS) Club last year (2003) has boosted my confidence level. It has also given me the opportunities to shape a few important characteristics such as the ability to work as part of a team and interpersonal communication skills. Of course, through activities such as that, I met more friends. **STEVEN**

I've joined a few clubs, though haven't really attended many of their activities. I enjoyed going to the CSSE club, as I am part of that faculty and had many friends that were part of the club. I think the best bit about that club, were the free barbecues and drinks but also, we were able to get software for a cheaper price. I also attended the IT ball, and thought it was most enjoyable. **VIRGINIA**

Being a member of the Monash Campus Christian Movement (CCM) club and participating in numerous sporting activities were things that I enjoyed most as a student. Not only because it relaxes my mind from those hectic studying hours, but it is also a good time to socialize and keep fit. Even though these extra curricular activities kept me busy throughout the year, they were also very valuable in my resumé in respect to graduate recruitment and job hunting. **SENG**

I am a member of the Indonesian Christian Ministry (ICM) club. Joining this club has given me many opportunities to meet new friends and enjoy various fun activities conducted by the club, such as sport events, social gatherings and also helping out at the drama concert organized by the club. **RUDI**

I have joined the Monash Alumni Association Student Mentoring Program. This is a good program to prepare for the transition between school life and work life. **NATHAN**

I am the Treasurer of Monash Indonesian Club, and I really love this club. We have a meeting once per week, except during the few weeks prior to exam periods, and every meeting is always a welcome break after a busy week. This club also provides me the opportunity to get to know other Indonesian people at Clayton Campus and to make more friends to help me with my study. **ELLY**

The ECSS was the club I got most out of as it was related to my Commerce degree. It provides an opportunity to meet key employers in various business fields such as marketing, finance and accounting through various events. Their Commerce Ball also provided the opportunity to meet other people who were studying the same course. I have also enjoyed playing sports as a student – in particular basketball and netball. **AMY**

I'm a member of the Economics and Commerce Students society (ECSS). I've really enjoyed the barbecues and balls organized by this committee and have also attended the balls organized by other committees. They are great social events, where everyone has a good time. **ADAM**

I've been involved in a lot, but probably the coolest would be my involvement with student radio. They also run a studio recording short course that, if you don't play in a band, can make you sound at least peripherally cool. **AARON**

As a Monash student you have access to numerous clubs and activities. A few I have enjoyed are the annual Commerce Ball held by the Economics and Commerce Student Society and the Marketing Ball conducted by the Marketing Society. There's always something going on at Monash from a BBQ to a poster sale; you'll always have something to do. **STEPHEN**

3. What is your current career goal?

My goal is to fully utilize my experiences at Monash University. I believe it is vital to equip myself with as many skills as possible before entering the workforce; currently, I want to improve my interpersonal skills and achieve a higher average mark for my studies. **MEI**

Originally, I wanted to obtain a customary Graduate Position, as this would probably secure my career path in one way or another. However due to the limited number of Graduate Positions and enormous amount of students competing for them, I decided to seek out entry level positions from the "hidden" job market (ie. jobs that are not advertised) as I believed I would probably have a higher chance of securing a position. The tricky part, of course, is to dig them out. **STEVEN**

My current career goal now is to probably finish my course, and try to find a suitable job for me. I would like to find one that I enjoy, but I wouldn't mind starting off with any job, and growing to like it and also doing well in it. Hopefully, I'll be able to work in a good business and learn plenty of things. **VIRGINIA**

I am aiming for a full time entry level position within the IT industry after completing my current degree. **SENG**

My current career goal is to obtain an internship or short-term job in a financial institution during the vacation period. **RUDI**

My current career goal is to work as a consultant. I plan to work in the accounting and finance fields for 4-5 years with one of the Big Four accounting firms to gain some experience and to develop skills in accounting and finance. After that, I would like to work as a consultant. I want to have my own company - I think everyone has a dream. If you want to reach your dream, start to set up your career goals now. **NATHAN**

I am planning to do the CPA program after finishing my degree, which will help my career in Accountancy. Instead of solely focusing on study when I undertake CPA, I would prefer to do it slowly while working as a junior accountant or an assistant of senior accountant, to gain more experience. **ELLY**

My current career goal is to work in the field of Public Relations. Ideally I would be running my own PR company in 15 years time. **AMY**

At this stage my current career goal is to complete the Chartered Accounting program and, following completion, decide which career path in accounting I would like to pursue, based on the area of most interest to me. **ADAM**

My current career goal is to practice commercial law – I am also interested in advocacy, so I might end up a barrister. **AARON**

My current goal is to obtain a graduate position in Australia or Overseas and to begin using the skills I have acquired at University within the area of Marketing. **STEPHEN**

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

Academically, Monash has a very good learning environment. Most importantly, I like the way Monash structures IT courses. Real-life examples are used when teaching theory, increasing our comprehension.

Apart from that, the services that Monash provides show that Monash care about students' life after graduation, an example being Monash University Careers and Employment. The free and regular interview practice sessions, resumé checking sessions and other workshops that their friendly staff run throughout the semester are very useful and important for a student's future career. **MEI**

I reckon the actual "classes" have equipped me with necessary fundamentals and knowledge, which I will use throughout my life. The activities provided by Clubs and Societies and the Careers and Employment Internship Program have also shaped some important skills that will be necessary for my future. Finally, the information sessions run by Careers and Employment are great way for students to understand recruitment processes, the importance of application letters and resumé and other information essential for final year students. **STEVEN**

For me, the most helpful aspect was taking part in the Internship. I was able to see what companies were out there, and what would suit me the most. By helping out with the Careers Fair I was able to speak with some companies, about what they were looking for in graduates and what they provided for us. **VIRGINIA**

I would have to say the final year of my course has really made me realize how just important it is to get ready for life after university. I am very grateful for my involvement in the Monash University Careers and Employment Internship Program, as I have gained some new skills as well as building upon my job searching strategies. My advice is to prepare as early as you can for your future career and not just leave it until your final year. **SENG**

Monash has equipped me with the required skills and knowledge to make me competitive in entering the job market. The unique, practical subjects offered such as Money Market Operation has allowed me to gain valuable practical experience such that it feels like I am really working in the treasury dealing room. **RUDI**

I think Monash has provided me with a strong academic knowledge and skills base. Overall, I have enjoyed studying at Monash. Also, there are many useful activities such as the Internship Program at Careers and Employment that help us to improve and develop skills out of classroom. This has helped me to prepare for my future career. **NATHAN**

Subject material taught at Monash has helped prepare me for my future career. All of the Accounting assignments and case studies I have ever completed as part of my course have really showed me what kind of work I will be doing in the real world, should I pursue a career in Accounting. **ELLY**

All aspects of my time at Monash have helped me to prepare for my future. There is no doubt that having a Monash degree will certainly increase my job prospects. The theory covered in all units will be a useful foundation when entering the work force. **ADAM**

My Law degree has provided focused training covering many relevant areas, providing invaluable knowledge and helping to develop important skills. The most beneficial aspect of my Arts degree has been developing communication and analytical skills. **AARON**

There were many aspects that helped me prepare for a future career, but two that really contributed would have to be the independence that you obtain at University and the team building skills that are evident in nearly every subject. **STEPHEN**

5. What did you want to achieve from your time as an Intern, and have you achieved it?

I was looking forward to developing skills in research and communication. I've achieved this through the Internship Program, particularly in communication. For example, we conducted surveys during the Vacation Careers Fair where I spoke with new people about their awareness of Careers and Employment services, and was involved in handing out information on campus. These experiences have given me more confidence in approaching new people. **MEI**

I wanted to gain some work experience, as I hoped to be employed in a commercial working environment in a field related to my study. I have not had a chance to do that thus far, however, the

Internship Program has equipped me with some important skills that I think will definitely assist in this pursuit. **STEVEN**

When I applied for the Internship, I thought it to be something I would do outside of studies, but I guess in the end, I realized this was a great opportunity to find something that would help me in my future career. Even though I got into the course I wanted, I still wasn't too sure on what sort of a job I would like to find. With this in mind, I looked for ideas on what career I wanted. I was able to narrow down my options. Though I have not had much luck in finding a job yet, I have learnt to work as a team with the other interns, especially at the Careers Fair. **VIRGINIA**

The main reason why I volunteered for the Monash University Internship Program was so I could gain some insight into not just graduate employment, but also any other employment job search strategies. I have definitely achieved this because many of the workshops and employer presentations conducted through Careers and Employment have helped me prepare for what is the next stage of my life. I was able to apply the knowledge gained through the Internship Program to successfully find a part time course-related job that I enjoy. Working with the Careers and Employment staff was also very beneficial as they are were very friendly and always willing to offer careers advice and guidance. **SENG**

The main reason that I applied for the Internship is because I was interested in becoming part of the Careers and Employment team, to help out in providing services to students. As I am in my third year at university, I am particularly interested in learning relevant skills that will make me more competitive in the job market. This Internship has given me the opportunity to make new friends, help out at the Careers Fair and Immigration Fair and other activities. **RUDI**

Previously, I did not know what Careers and Employment offered and what they do for us. Now, I know their service well. It has helped me to overcome difficulties in writing resumés and application letters as well as searching for a job. **NATHAN**

I applied for the Internship Program hoping to better understand more employment systems in Australia, and to gain an insight into what career path I can follow in the future, given my capabilities and limitations.

I learnt more about recruitment processes through researching employers' websites; it showed me how employers actually received applications from various job seekers, and how the selection procedures vary according to the organisational culture.

I have also analysed job vacancies from newspapers, which made me realise that there are only a few jobs available for graduate / entry level candidates without any experience, compared with the number of people graduating. This is why I plan to do the CPA program after finishing my degree. It also highlighted the importance of gaining working experience, for example, a casual job in administration.

The biggest surprise was the opportunity to speak directly to employers at the Careers Fair. I was surprised that I would be able to speak to representatives of big companies who join the Careers Fair whilst helping them to prepare their equipment.

I am certain that these activities have improved my skills in the workplace, and that this would be a valuable part of my resume. **ELLY**

I wanted to learn what companies existed out there in the big world. Working as an Intern allowed me to do thorough research on these companies, and gave me an indication of what organizations I may like to work for. **AMY**

As an Intern, I wanted to improve my skills in terms of liaising with employers, the ability to search and apply for future employment and develop a greater understanding of what life may be like outside of University. **STEPHEN**

When I started the Internship Program my main aim was to be involved in an extra curricular activity, because they are regarded highly by future employers. I also could be more active on campus. This goal was achieved.

The Internship Program was also an opportunity to learn more about the services offered by Monash University Careers and Employment, and to meet some really great people at the same time. **ADAM**

6. What advice would you give to future interns?

I would say to fully participate in the programs. Always have a positive attitude, even with things you don't like or aren't comfortable with, because the result might turn out different to what you expected. **MEI**

It has always been said that the higher your educational qualifications, the better your chance of finding a good job, however a brilliant qualification alone may not be enough to secure your ideal graduate employment. University is a place for overall development. So study hard but also enjoy everything you can. Experience as many things as you can because your experience can open up all sorts of opportunities and you never know what you will end up doing. Do not just seal yourself within your little eight by eight cell or study bunker. **STEVEN**

Always work your hardest, and don't always think that study is the only thing you need. Try some extra-curricular activities, especially things like an internship or something that may help your future. I found that experience is the best way to find a job. And it'll give you a better chance compared to other students. Make sure you apply for something or everything, broaden your options. Sometimes things don't work out the way you want and having other options that can lead to what you want is essential. But remember to always try your very best. **VIRGINIA**

Never give up hope of finding a course-related job even if you weren't successful during the very competitive graduate employment period early in the year. There are heaps of other possibilities out there and also very helpful staff and resources at the Monash University Careers and Employment office, just as I have found. Keep yourself busy by being involved in as many extra-curricular activities as you can; this improves your chances of graduate employment and also gives you an excellent mixture of work and play. **SENG**

Students should make full use of their time while they are in university. Other than just studying, they should also take part in other activities conducted by Monash. **RUDI**

Please apply for the Internship Program - I can assure you that all students gain valuable experience from the Program. **NATHAN**

For future Interns, this is your chance to learn more about the employment process and find out what job opportunities are available to you. Moreover, you will have the chance to meet new people, including other Interns (they will be your good mates!), Careers and Employment Staff, and of course... employers! Enjoy your time! **ELLY**

Make the most out of your time as an Intern and utilize the resources that exist. Being an Intern provides you with the opportunity to be the first to check out the current positions vacant and to go

through the files on companies. You are also given the opportunity to talk to potential employers at the careers fairs, so make the most of it. **AMY**

To fully utilize the opportunities created by taking part in the internship program. **ADAM**

Know what you want and always ask lots of questions. Most people are really friendly, so if you're in doubt, call 'em up & check it out! **AARON**

Be open-minded and have fun. Being an Intern provides opportunities to help prepare you for life outside of University, and whilst some tasks can become routine, they do help in the long run. The Internship Program is your opportunity to have fun and give something back to the University. **STEVE**
