

Weekly Career News

Term 3

Thursday 1 September 2016

RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Are you planning on studying a Bachelor of Science or Biological Sciences in the future? Concerned you may not be able to secure a job after your three-year degree?

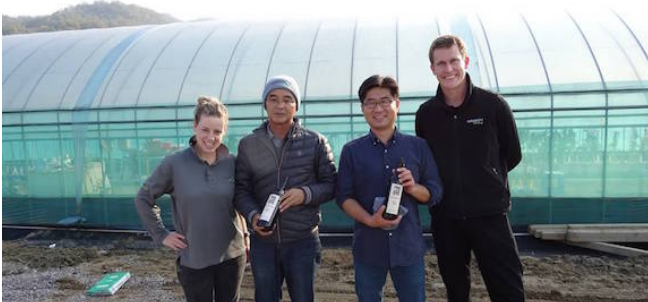
University of Tasmania graduate Peter McEvoy has a suggestion – that you consider studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science instead.

As the following interview with Peter shows, agriculture isn't just about farming. If you are interested in biology, science, chemistry, geography, zoology etc., then read on.

What was your course like? I completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with First Class Honours at the University of Tasmania. My degree was a very challenging, yet rewarding experience. This course provided an excellent foundation in the broad science streams of biology, chemistry and animal science, as well as Australian and global agriculture.

I then gained a broad, but excellent coverage of every major agricultural industry in Australia, the scientific theory, processes and research underpinning each industry and the skills required to gain employment. This encompassed detailed plant and animal physiology and pathology, microbiology, entomology, advanced plant and animal breeding processes, as well as extensive practical research projects.

Picture below: Peter – far right.



RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

We also undertook complex and challenging statistical analysis classes throughout the degree, which are essential for understanding and writing your own research papers.

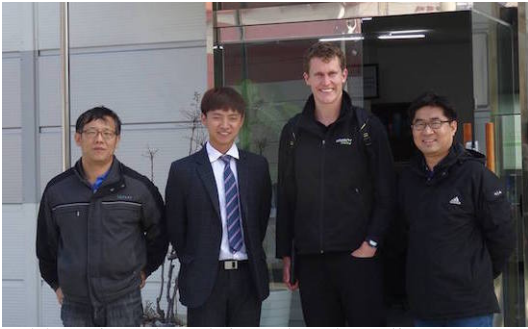
In addition to the core units across the four years of the degree, having the opportunity to design, coordinate, gain funding, manage and finalise an honours research project, is a brilliant learning opportunity. The final year also allows students to undertake honours research projects in their chosen specialist area of agriculture.

As each agricultural industry is highly specific, students should not expect to gain expertise in any one field after completing this degree. Rather, the degree provides graduates with the essential skills required to learn quickly and adapt to any agricultural pathway and is an excellent platform to begin a career in agriculture.

What did you love about your course? I thoroughly enjoyed the diversity of my course. In the first 2 years, I received a great foundation of understanding for animal, plant and chemistry sciences from highly experienced university researchers, while my final 2 years became much more specifically focused on agricultural principles, theories and techniques.

As the complexity of the scientific learning increased, I particularly enjoyed leaning on the essential knowledge gained in the first years of the degree. Since Australian agriculture is incredibly diverse, I enjoyed how well each key industry was covered and the scientific processes and opportunities involved. In addition, undertaking key field trips and research projects for each specialist area of agriculture was very enlightening.

RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE



I thoroughly enjoyed studying plant breeding and research, as well as the complexities of soil science. Gaining a complex scientific understanding of soil and plant relationships and applying this knowledge in practical agricultural research projects, was very valuable. Also, having the opportunity to plan, coordinate, manage and complete an honours project was incredibly challenging, but also provided an opportunity to excel in the university environment.

What are you doing now in your graduate position? I am currently working as a Product Development Agronomist and Potato Portfolio Manager for a vegetable seed company Fairbank's Selected Seed Co. Pty. Ltd. Initially, this job interview opportunity was gained through previous work experience. The job has since taken me across Australia and the world through Japan, Korea and also Germany. My role is primarily focused on coordinating the development and commercialisation of improved vegetable varieties in Australia, with a focus on aesthetic quality traits, yield and disease resistance to meet Australia's tough climatic conditions and complex consumers.

In addition, I am now managing an exclusive partnership between Fairbank's Seeds and a German potato breeding company, with the goal of introducing improved potato varieties to the Australian market. This has also provided me unique opportunities into establishing Plant Breeder's Rights for our potato genetics in Australia, the complexities associated with Intellectual Property across the world and detailed contract law.

What do you love about your job? I love the diversity, flexibility and range of opportunities that I have been given with my job. Having the opportunity to manage a major international partnership between our company and a major German organisation, while still spending significant time assessing and developing new vegetable varieties on farm and travelling throughout Australia, is a

RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

fantastic experience. I also work with a young, dynamic and enthusiastic team and we strive to achieve excellence in everything we do. By being only a medium sized company, we have an incredible flexibility that enables us to make balanced, yet quick decisions to beat our competitors to market.

I have had multiple opportunities to coordinate and undertake business trips around the world, have presented at conferences and love being able to launch improved vegetable varieties to the Australian market. I am also fortunate and incredibly grateful that my job allows me to chase my football aspirations away from work, particularly with the intense commitments required.

Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your job. A typical day would involve getting on the road before 7am and travelling to South East Gippsland. I would catch up with major growers in the vegetable industry, discuss how their crops were performing and usually complete crop assessments on my iPad, for new seed trials I had previously placed on their farm. A new Asian Greens trial for babyleaf packaged salad mix, may include up to 50 untested varieties.

Our company has developed a complex database with digital assessment forms for every vegetable crop and individual variety. This captures all the key criteria to assess crop performance and enables us to clearly demonstrate to growers when we have discovered improved varieties. I would deliver seed orders to various growers in my region, capture new sales, and assess any mature crop trials and then travel back to the head office in the afternoon.

I would coordinate with my interstate colleagues to send new varieties to their regions and ensure we implement a national approach to our product development. Additionally, I would be coordinating with our international suppliers (Plant Breeders) and quarantine to import new varieties they have been developing, as well as providing complex performance reports for each of their varieties we have recently assessed. Ultimately, this assists with guiding their plant breeding processes to better suit Australian market requirements.

RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Why should students consider studying agriculture?

Unfortunately, there is a significant lack of understanding and stigma associated with students finishing Year 12 and considering jobs in agriculture. In my experience, the job opportunities and job security that exists in this industry, effectively outperforms every other major science degree. Agriculture is a rapidly evolving and technologically innovative industry both domestically and internationally.

There is an enormous variation of employment opportunities including Industry Specific Consultation Services, Agricultural Banking, Agronomic Services (soil/chemical/fertiliser management for growers), Intellectual Property Services, Chemical/Fertiliser/Seed sales, Laboratory Plant & Soil Analytics, Agricultural Export Management, Supply Chain Management through Supermarkets/Wholesalers/Growers, National and State Quarantine/Biosecurity, University Research & Scholarships, Farm Management, Microbiology, Administrative Import Management, Teaching and International Agricultural Research Projects just to name a few!

In addition, many agricultural pathways will offer healthy employment packages (including a car, phone etc.), along with excellent potential for career progression and leadership opportunities. When I graduated in 2013, statistically speaking there were 5 jobs on offer for every Australian student who graduated in agriculture - the numbers speak for themselves. In the end, the world will always need advanced scientific thinking to improve the methods by which we develop, produce, package and transport food. It is an exciting and innovative industry and will always require new ideas from young minds.



RETHINKING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Agriculture courses

University of Tasmania - <http://bit.ly/2bAaGQ7>
University of Melbourne - <http://bit.ly/1AZGSZ0>
La Trobe University - <http://bit.ly/1FGtcP0>
Charles Sturt University - <http://bit.ly/2c0YRET>
Longerenong College - <http://bit.ly/2aEsbhu>

Careers in Agriculture websites

- Career Harvest - <http://bit.ly/1f0m8jW>
- Rural Careers - www.ruralcareers.net.au/
- Primary Industries - <http://bit.ly/1Hm0jfk>

VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Westpac Scholarship Program: Westpac offers the following two scholarships, which are targeted to young people finishing school:

- Young Technologists Scholarship
- Social Change Fellowship

For information about each scholarship and to find out if you are eligible to apply, go to <http://bit.ly/1NIn8NS>

Passionate about Information Technology? The following three universities offer Bachelor of Information Technology Industry Scholarship programs:

- **University of Technology Sydney (UTS):** The scholarships are worth \$46 500 each and recipients have had a 100% employment success rate post graduation. Applications close on 30 September, <http://bit.ly/1LF067s>
- **Swinburne University:** recipients receive 40 weeks of industry experience and a \$40 000 industry funded scholarship, <http://bit.ly/2bG8LuW>
- **La Trobe University:** students who receive entry into the Bachelor of Information Technology (Professional) receive an annual scholarship and depending on the campus (Melbourne or Bendigo), a year of paid industry experience, or a \$20 000 industry based scholarship, <http://bit.ly/2bzgTLy>

VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Are you an Elite Athlete? Did you know that some universities have entry schemes that enable you to receive bonus aggregate VCE/HSC or ATAR points and/or additional consideration through the selection process? The following are examples of universities that offer bonus schemes:

- University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/2bXqxMh>
- La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/1HcjWHt>
- Australian Catholic University, <http://bit.ly/2bP9VI3>

Are you interested in studying teaching? Deakin University offers bonus aggregate VCE/HSC points for applicants that can demonstrate they have capabilities related to suitability for teaching. To apply, you will need to fill out the Personal Statement on the VTAC website after you apply for the eligible course/s, <http://bit.ly/2bXsEjh>

New Digital Media courses at Macleay College, Melbourne: From 2017, Macleay will be offering the new Diploma and Bachelor of Digital Media. The courses have been developed in conjunction with industry leaders from Animal Logic, Barnum Group, Stamford, Soap Creative and Columbia University. These courses will suit students interested in social media, communications, digital marketing and video production, <http://bit.ly/2cpDH6U>

You can also study digital media courses at other Victorian institutes such as:

- Bachelor of Design (Digital Media), RMIT: <http://bit.ly/2bQKzrJ>
- Bachelor of Design (majoring in Digital Media Design), Swinburne University, <http://bit.ly/2bApAc1>
- Bachelor of Digital Media, Australian Catholic University, <http://bit.ly/2bQdddM>
- Bachelor of Creative Industries (majoring in Digital Media), Victoria University, <http://bit.ly/2c3dp6Z>



VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Interested in Marine Science? Marine Science and Marine Biology courses are offered at the following institutes in Victoria, Tasmania and Canberra:

- Australian Maritime College, Launceston, Tasmania, <http://bit.ly/1bGJ4SK>
- Deakin University, Warrnambool and Geelong Waurn Ponds, <http://bit.ly/2bAvUQU>
- University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/2bHlBch>
- Australia National University, Canberra, <http://bit.ly/1e0fHSY>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Study university subjects in Year 12: if you are a high achieving student, you may be able to study university subjects whilst you are still at school. Deakin University offer free subjects including criminology, journalism, psychological science and marketing through their Deakin Accelerate program. Deakin is hosting three Accelerate Information Evenings, which are open to prospective students and their families:

- Warrnambool, Tuesday 6 September
- Melbourne, Tuesday 13 September
- Geelong Waurn Ponds, Wednesday 14 September

For information and to book your place, go to <http://bit.ly/2bUgre2>

University of Tasmania (UTAS) Advice Nights: To find out about the courses you are interested in, you can attend Advice Nights at UTAS campuses in September. For dates and locations, go to <http://bit.ly/2bYSaVs>

Free VCE exam revision lectures: Victoria University is running free VCE exam revision lectures during September for Year 11 and 12 students studying Unit 3+4 subjects. For a list of dates, venues and subjects covered, go to <http://bit.ly/2bQe1iT>

UPCOMING EVENTS

UNSW Women in Engineering Camp: If you are a female, will be 16 by January 2017, and have an interest in science, maths and engineering, you have the opportunity to apply for a four-day residential program at the University of NSW starting Monday 9 January. You will be able to explore careers in engineering, live on campus at the University and participate in amazing activities. Applications close 25 September, <http://bit.ly/2a7KXjM>


Macleay College Information Evening: will be held on Wednesday 14 September at the Melbourne campus. For information and to RSVP, go to <http://bit.ly/2c6QwOG>

School Holiday Workshops at Macleay College: Year 11 and 12 students are invited to participate in September school holiday workshops in the following course areas:

- 21: Journalism
- 22: Business Marketing
- 22: Advertising and Media

For information and to book your place, go to <http://bit.ly/2c1mKfE>

Inter
Train



- Learn about the RMIT Associate Degree in Aviation – Professional Pilot
- Talk to experienced flight instructors about the range of career opportunities in aviation
- Have a guided tour of RMIT's dedicated flight training facility at Point Cook
- View examples from their fleet of planes
- See professionals from the nearby RAAF museum at work in a thrilling flying display (weather permitting)

For information and to RSVP, go to <http://bit.ly/2bPdU7o>

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

8: Information Session, CQUniversity, Melbourne campus, <http://bit.ly/2c2ga8k>

11: RMIT Flight Training Open Day, Point Cook, RMIT, <http://bit.ly/2bPdU7o>

13: Inside Monash Seminar Series, Teaching, Clayton campus, <http://bit.ly/29YsVhe>

13 - 15: ConocoPhillips Science Experience, Swinburne University, Hawthorn, <http://bit.ly/2ap3Cau>

13 - 15: Advice Night, Swinburne University, Hawthorn (13) and Wantirna (15) campuses, <http://bit.ly/2b6ZCfA>

15: Portfolio Information Evening, Deakin University, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/2aHzMyP>

19 - 25: NIDA drama workshops, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/22yVXtr>

21: Science in City Lab Tour, RMIT, City, <http://bit.ly/2brJOpi>

20 - 22: ConocoPhillips Science Experience, Federation University, Gippsland, <http://bit.ly/2ap3Cau>

22 - 23: Nuclear Medicine Workplace Visits – St Vincent's Hospital, RMIT, <http://bit.ly/2aTHyIX>

22, 23: Audition Masterclass, Federation University, Ballarat, <http://bit.ly/29IQOcx>

26 - 27: Monash Art, Design and Architecture (MADA) folio workshops, <http://bit.ly/2bwg0J5>

26, 27 & 28: Audition skills & folio presentation workshops, Box Hill Institute, <http://bit.ly/2bmewgE>

28: Industry Experience Day, Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/2bfaG92>

28: ENGenuITy 2016, Monash University, Clayton Campus, Year 10 female students, <http://bit.ly/2b9OUYn>

KEY RESOURCES

Myfuture: students will be able to explore courses, occupations, take a mini career quiz and an entrepreneurship quiz, and develop job-seeking skills, <https://myfuture.edu.au/>

The Good Careers Guide: You can search over 400 different occupations narrowed down by the field or type of work you would like to do in the future (e.g., helping/advising), <http://bit.ly/2a7Qr0Z>

Good Universities Guide: You will be able to find courses, compare university ratings, search for scholarships and explore careers, <http://bit.ly/1N6a3Pk>

Australian Apprenticeship Pathways: You will be able to undertake apprenticeship aptitude tests, find local apprenticeship and group training centres, and learn about different trade occupations, www.aapathways.com.au/

Defence Jobs: You can explore occupations, courses and technical trades in the Army, Navy and Air Force, www.defencejobs.gov.au/

Careers in Science and Engineering, <http://bit.ly/24hW6WV>

Careers With Code: careers in computer science and gaming, <http://bit.ly/1UgX7Vf>

I Choose Technology: careers in information and communication technologies, <http://bit.ly/2adStKy>

Chartered Accountants: careers in chartered accountancy, <http://bit.ly/2almabl>

Careers in Horse Racing: <http://bit.ly/1Pfx4xW>

Rail Careers: <http://railcareers.net.au/>

A Life Without Limits: careers in surveying, <http://bit.ly/1I8GVkL>

KEY RESOURCES

Bullseye posters: You can explore occupations related to your favourite school subjects, <http://bit.ly/1svwa98>

Careers in Primary Industries/Agriculture: <http://bit.ly/1Hm0jfk>

Career Harvest: Careers in Agriculture, Food and Fiber, <http://bit.ly/1f0m8jW>

Rural Careers Australia: You can explore careers in agriculture, horticulture, animal care and land management, www.ruralcareers.net.au/

Maths Adds: view career profiles of people working in interesting maths careers, and also find out about how maths is used in careers such as hairdressing, building and nursing, <http://bit.ly/2anSARy>

Maths: make your career count: explore careers in mathematics such as electrician and meteorologist, <http://bit.ly/1WWajoe>

My Skills: You can search for and explore vocational courses across Australia, learn about in demand jobs and watch videos of young people who have completed vocational training, <http://bit.ly/1D8uek7>

SkillsOne: you can watch videos about different trades, www.skillsone.com.au/

QILT: You can compare independent student ratings about different universities and courses, www.qilt.edu.au

Australian Dental Association, careers in dentistry and dentistry specialisations, <http://bit.ly/2af2xjn>

Exercise and Sports Science Australia, careers in exercise and sports science, <http://bit.ly/2abl8RG>

Optometry Australia, careers and courses in optometry, <http://bit.ly/2aCiLpk>

Student Edge: videos and profiles of people working in various occupations, <http://bit.ly/2aCpXSy>