



BETTER ACCESS TO HIGH VALUE CAREER DESTINATIONS

Renewal is the connecting theme in library and information education in 2012. At Edith Cowan University (ECU), a mix of new staff plus significant changes to the course offering is creating new opportunities.

A new major in Teacher Librarianship, to be offered with the School of Education, is planned to come on stream in 2013. New programs in 2013 will also include an entirely new major in ECU's Bachelor of Education Secondary, providing students with access to a dual qualification in teaching and librarianship.

We had our last intake of library technicians in 2011 and we have now shifted our undergraduate programs to a three year program based on our Bachelor of Information Technology degree. With the new curriculum, ECU hopes library technician graduates will have better access to higher value career destinations in information services.

Students in the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) complete an Information Services Major which is fully multi-disciplinary. In stream-based specialisations, student have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in management, marketing, enterprise information management, information services management, information literacy, project management and web information systems.

Hands-on technology skills also remain important. Looking at the landscape for courses and points of differentiation, we have decided that what has traditionally worked for us – hands-on exposure to enabling technologies – will continue to guide the evolution of our courses. We feel this is more likely to be sustainable in the long run.

We are also encouraged by the performance of LIS students in discipline areas once the preserve of information systems technology. Often LIS students are the best students in subjects such as systems analysis and design and markup languages.

We will be continuing to support our LibTechs through a conversion pathway in the BIT that enables LibTech ECU graduates and current students to convert to a three year degree with full credit for their LibTech studies. For most students, this will involve a further year's study. This new program was recently proposed for full ALIA Associate Membership eligibility, as part of ECU's course accreditation.

Changes in undergraduate programs will bring new work integrated learning possibilities, in addition to the familiar two week practicums. Our students will be eligible to participate in the BIT Work Integrated

A NEW MIX OF OPTIONS IN LEARNING MEANS MORE OPTIONS LATER IN YOUR CAREER

Learning Scheme, which sees high performance students spend a semester working fulltime with an industry organisation relevant to their area of study or expertise. We see Work Integrated Learning (WIL) as the capstone experience for near-graduating students and the perfect launching platform into a new career.

The new Teacher Librarianship major in the B.Ed. Secondary is an online undergraduate LIS major aimed at producing information literacy, curriculum and technology in education specialists. The program value adds to LIS by providing students with the opportunity to become fully qualified secondary teachers.

New programs in 2013 will be supported by an extensive professional development program that leverages research and teaching strengths of the School such as cyber security, accessibility and enterprise information management.

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INFORMATION SCIENCE IS HANDS-ON AT ECU

ECU is a leader in information science research and teaching. Over the past two years, ECU staff and students have won industry excellence awards sponsored by ALIA and Google. All courses are available on-campus and online. What's more, commencing first year, full-time students may be eligible for a free laptop. With flexible, multi-disciplinary graduate programs, the road to a career in information services is open.

For more details, call 134 ECU (134 328), email futurestudy@ecu.edu.au or visit reachyourpotential.com.au



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