

Griffith University School of Engineering

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Times are changing

- No longer the case that your technical abilities and work experience is all that counts
- Soft skills such as communication skills are in incredibly high demand in the current competitive job market
- Strong communication skills, the ability to speak in plain English, building positive relationships with stakeholders, and showing inspiring leadership qualities – typically called “soft skills” – are becoming increasingly essential for engineering and manufacturing professionals
- Soft skills are all those personal attributes that sit outside of your professional qualifications and work experience. They refer to how you interact, lead and communicate with other people, and they’re an essential foundation for any successful career



What are soft skills ?

- Good communications skills
 - you may often need to explain technical information to a non-technical or “lay” audience
 - in addition to technical knowledge, the ability to communicate it accurately and concisely to an uninitiated audience is just as important these days
- Strong leadership and team spirit
 - Is essential for career progression
 - could involve managing teams, individuals, projects or entire organisations and working in teams
 - the ability to truly inspire and instill confidence is at the heart of all good leadership
 - some have natural leadership abilities, but good management skills can be sharpened with the right training and development
- Lateral thinking
 - organisations will always appreciate someone who can keep a cool head in a crisis and find innovative, creative solutions to complex business issues



- Influencing skills
 - the ability to negotiate with people at all levels of the business, forge productive relationships, and persuasively present ideas and opinions are important attributes
 - confident influencers and decision-makers are always in demand
- Be flexible and nimble...do more than your job scope
- Polite, proactive, collegial and collaborative

Remember:

- don't underestimate how important these are to a prospective employer
- a strong CV, track record and technical expertise may get you to the interview stage, they may not always get you the job
- promote a good, healthy mix of technical ability and soft skills like leadership qualities and communication skills to help you stand out from the crowd

How are you going to learn all this?



You are in good hands!

Teaching quality and graduate employability:

- Work Integrated Learning (WIL) through IAP (Industry Affiliated Program) producing work ready, versatile and well rounded graduates
- Ranked #1 in SEQ for student satisfaction (CEQ survey)
- Ranked #1 in SEQ for teaching quality (CEQ survey)
- Scholarly driven teaching approaches
- Cultural inclusiveness
- Strong student support / Approachable lecturers
- Strong support for Women in Engineering
- Extensive international collaborations



Find out more
griffith.edu.au/mates

But where will I work?

Engineers have some of the highest paying graduate jobs

- 2014 median starting salary: **\$62,000**, ranked #3 after Dentists and Optometrists (GCA survey cited in Financial Review, 2014)
- Griffith engineering graduates' average starting salary is \$62,450 (Financial Review, 2014)

Good idea to have a look at the 2015/16 Australian Salary & Employment Outlook produced by Michael Page Engineering for the different categories
www.michaelpage.com.au



Find out more
griffith.edu.au/orientation

Interesting employment facts

- Asian nations are producing well over half of all engineering graduates globally
- almost half (49.7%) of all overseas-born engineers working in Australia today are Asian-born
- there are almost as many overseas-born engineers (78,986 or 48.2%) employed in engineering in Australia as there are Australian-born engineers (84,926 or 51.8%)
(Source: www.professionalengineers.org.au)
- According to the Australian Department of Employment, civil engineering professionals, electrical, mechanical engineers are on the occupational skills shortages list
(www.employment.gov.au)
- Hiring in civil and infrastructure is experiencing geographical variations, with activity being strongest in New South Wales



Find out more

griffith.edu.au/international/life-on-campus

Interesting employment facts

- Professionals with project management experience are in highest demand
- On the whole there remains volatility in demand for engineers on a regional basis eg. the reduction in demand for engineers in Queensland and Western Australia, causing a material impact on remuneration while demand has remained consistent in New South Wales and Victoria
- Current trend is that engineering graduates are attracted to businesses which are focusing on innovation and growth and employers with the ability to provide a strong pipeline of diverse project work will be best placed to retain employees



Find out more

griffith.edu.au/international/life-on-campus

You have to be in it, to win it!

Success stories

Krystine Chung

Education

- MEng (Engineering Management), Griffith University
- BEng (Electronic & Biomedical Engineering), Griffith University

Achievement

- Top 100 Most Employable Graduates in Australia
- Griffith University Medal

Employment

Business Technology (BT) Officer - Business Intelligence, Suncorp Group



Success stories

Fiorella Ignacio

Education

- MEng (Engineering Management), Griffith University
- BEng (Industrial Engineering), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Employment

General Manager, Proof Engineers Pty Ltd
(through IAP) IAP..industry affiliates program



Success stories

Dinindu Yatawarage

Education

BEng (Civil Engineering), Griffith University

Employment

Undergraduate Engineer, SMEC
(through IAP)



Who is going to teach me?



Prof David Thiel

Sensors and antenna technology in sport engineering and mining

Dr Sunil Herat

United Nations advisor on E-waste



Who is going to teach me?



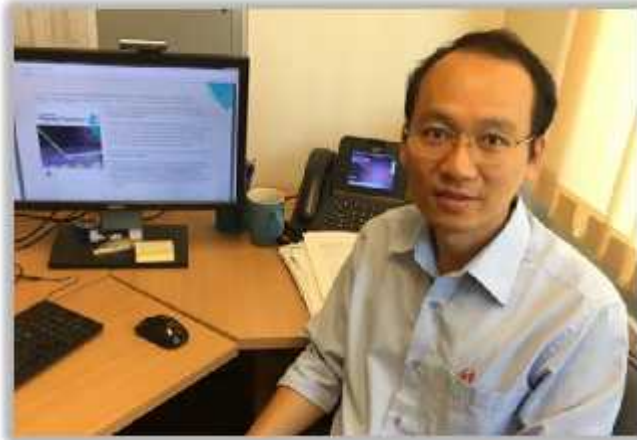
Dr Jeung-Hwan Doh
Self-healing concrete

A/Prof Rodney Stewart

Energy and water demand management using
smart grid/smart meters



Who is going to teach me?



Dr Dzung Dao
Nanotechnology



Dr Benoit Gilbert
Sustainable composite
wood structures using
wood materials



Dr Xiaobo (Bob) Qu
Transport Engineering

Thank you!



