



STUDENT EDGE PRESENTS:

LIFE AFTER SCHOOL:

Business Special

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WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO STUDY BUSINESS

By Student Edge

When thinking about 'business', you'd be forgiven for imagining a blur of pantsuits, briefcases, cubicles and power stances.

But the field of business is much more diverse and varied than that.

Student Edge caught up with Monash Business School's Associate Professor Colin Jevons to learn about all the unexpected things you might encounter in a business degree.

A business degree can show you the world.

No, literally.

A/Professor Jevons told us Monash Business School offers a bunch of short study trips overseas in Europe and Asia during the summer and winter breaks. Semesters abroad are another common choice for those who want a more in-depth cultural adventure. Monash in particular offers even more options with partner universities overseas, including North and South America, and Africa too.



What do artists and politicians have in common? A business degree.

Turns out the skills you need to run a country are (mostly) the same as those you need to create some art.

A/Professor Jevons says business degrees teach “skills that are needed in the 21st century: the skills of creativity, the skills of being able to communicate across any medium,” not to mention the skills of problem solving and teamwork.

Combining a business degree with another degree can also help you think creatively and critically; two things that are particularly useful in the worlds of art and politics. No surprise Cate Blanchett studied both economics and fine arts at uni. Just another reason to make her Prime Minister.

Business students are ideas and solutions generators.

With automation and A.I. taking over many unskilled jobs, A/Professor Jevons explains that business degrees are teaching creative skills that robots can't replicate.

“Human beings are best at inter-personal communication and being that little bit creative,” he says.

“Machines are never going to be as creative as people are.”

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Internships will be more than just coffee runs.

While we might've seen some horror internships on the screen or heard about them through older family members, internships through universities (with the added bonus of credit towards your degree) are quality controlled, so there's little chance you'll just be on coffee-run duty.

Internships are a great way to understand what it's actually like working in the field, and you'll get to meet industry professionals who can offer advice and potential opportunities down the track.

These internships can even be done overseas, so you can knock out two birds with one stone and be well-travelled and full of experience come graduation day.

Business doesn't mean boring.

When it comes to actually studying business, it's not just about getting to a job where you have to cram yourself onto public transport every peak hour and crunch numbers for nine hours a day.

A/Professor Jevons explains that “creative accounting” (not the commonly-used euphemism for ‘embezzling’) is starting to take off, with accountants trying to see if they can calculate unusual topics like love and water usage.

“It's about getting people to think differently about a profession that has one of the most boring reputations,” A/Professor Jevons jokes, reminding us that “any stuff that is boring, by definition, is going to be replaced by a machine”.

A BUSINESS GRADUATE TELLS US ABOUT MAKING GOOD CHOICES AT UNI

By Student Edge



Most students probably wouldn't lunge at the opportunity to do extra work on top of their degrees, but what if we told you it would actually make your life easier upon graduation into the real world?

Meet Jasmine Chin, a business graduate who undertook a bunch of internships and is now relishing her fully-fledged adult life.

Jasmine says it was her flexible double degree (a Bachelor of Marketing and Management from Monash Business School) that opened multiple doors for her future career.

"Marketing is very practical and [full of] real-life scenarios, whereas management is very theory-based, so I think they both complement each other," Jasmine explains.

Choosing these areas also allowed her to take on some varied internships, including at an insurance company, a real estate and property development business and a media-tech company.

"I actually didn't do any traditional coffee runs," Jasmine jokes.

"It was really good to learn from different people and different teams and exposing myself to different industries."

Thanks to her internships, she was also surprised by the industry she actually wanted to enter after she'd finished her degree: tech.

"I thought it would be very geeky or very boring but it's actually very interesting; it's very fast, it's super exciting," Jasmine explains.

"I started casually looking for jobs during my finals as a form of procrastination; hey, might as well make use of the time," she laughs.

"I would say it was relatively difficult to compete with other experienced candidates and find the 'right' role as a fresh graduate."

Ultimately, Jasmine decided to narrow down her job search by looking at the skill sets most sought after, the role's scope and the opportunities at the company. She landed a job in a tech company and has been there since.

"[Don't] just pick something that's cool or something that everyone's doing that's not suited for you," Jasmine cautions, adding that once you start your degree, it's important to "not to be afraid to ask questions."

"You must have the right attitude; be challenged, try different things and take in feedback, positive and negative and keep yourself driven."

"[DON'T] JUST PICK SOMETHING THAT'S COOL OR SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE'S DOING THAT'S NOT SUITED FOR YOU,"

READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD, ONE OFFICE AT A TIME?

Prepare for the challenge at Monash Business School. **Find out more** about the courses that Monash Business School has on offer and learn about their flexible learning opportunities.

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TAKE IT FROM AN EMPLOYER: FIVE SKILLS EVERY BOSS WANTS

By Student Edge

While most university students can't imagine their future being more stressful than their present, the reality of getting a professional job will one day set in.

We spoke to Sarah, a graduate manager at a major Australian bank, to better understand what companies look for. Her role is to help companies find the best and brightest graduates from an ever-increasing pool of qualified and hungry young people.

01 Initiative.

To stand out, take the initiative to research the company and tailor your pitch to them.

"Really think about the type of questions that company will ask [you] and what will be some of the experiences [you] can share that really allows [you] to demonstrate that capability," Sarah recommends.

03 Team worker.

In most roles, you'll need to be able to successfully work within teams, so naturally, great team workers are in high demand.

Good thing you would have demonstrated this in team sports and study groups.

05 Respectfulness of others.

No work environment thrives with toxic people who aren't respectful of others. The job interview is a great time to prove your creds. Be respectful, show your personality, smile, and ask questions.

02 Resilience.

Tell employers when you have been resilient in the face of change, and coped like a boss.

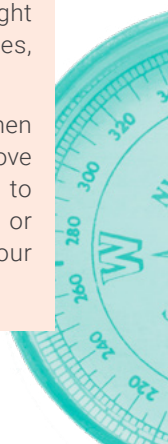
Like: a friend moving to another school, your casual job changing location, or dealing with difficulties in uni group assignments (we've all been there).

"You really need to have experiences to draw upon to show the [employer] your capabilities and what it is you would do in that situation," Sarah adds.

04 Adaptability.

In the workplace, adaptability will be a key skill for the future as technologies become more advanced, and companies look at new ways to improve physical and digital spaces in the office. Never been in an office before? Highlight your other adapting experiences, because they could still fit!

These experiences could be when your school or uni decided to move lectures online, when you had to change texts prior to an exam, or when your hours changed at your workplace.



HOW TRAVELLING THE WORLD CAN MAKE YOU A MORE APPEALING EMPLOYEE

By Student Edge

Are you feeling the heat from your parents or friends to dive back into further study after Year 12? If you are weighing up a gap year to travel versus keeping the post-exams momentum going, there is another option. Evaluating your study pathway and then planning in some studying abroad experiences is a way to combine the best of both worlds.

Fact is, more and more employers are seeking uni graduates with cultural competence. So if you've spent a semester studying in another country or undertaken an international internship, you'll be more appealing in the job market.

We asked the Deputy Dean, International at Monash Business School, Michaela Rankin, to explain the benefits for students who want to travel, and also get a better shot at their dream career.

The benefits of studying abroad.

"It is one thing to read about an experience and quite another to live it," says Professor Rankin.

"Having 'lived experience' as well as academic credentials makes you a much more appealing employment prospect. When comparing apples with apples; an apple with a global understanding of culture and business is going to be more appealing."

Where to go...

Professor Rankin says that really depends on what industry or career you're interested in.

"You might like to study in San Francisco if you have an interest in entrepreneurship, or head to Chile for a better understanding of Latin America's political and economic climate," she says.

"I would also encourage you to look to the broad range of opportunities across Asia, and particularly in China, to gain insights into how culture influences business in the region.

"By gaining a deeper understanding of how industry operates internationally, you'll be better informed to tailor your studies once back home."

How to make sure your overseas holiday/gap year is still valuable.

"While a holiday to Mykonos might be great for Instagram, you wouldn't put it on your resume," says Professor Rankin.

She instead endorses structured study abroad programs to "help you gain a deeper understanding of different business cultures as well as helping you establish your own network of future contacts."

Another benefit: If you can't afford to holiday overseas, financial support is often available through your uni to cover the costs associated with travel for study, via scholarships, loans, grants and exchange programs.

"At Monash Business School we also subsidise the costs of a number of our short-term study abroad programs to ensure they are accessible to a broader range of students."



What is cultural competence?

When Google revealed **the seven top skills they seek in job applicants**, many were surprised to see that "coding" didn't make the list. Instead, Google said they're looking for good coaches and communicators, with empathy and social awareness above all.

That's where cultural competence comes in.

"Cultural competence refers to our ability and willingness to be open to different cultural perspectives, and to ensure people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds feel included, safe, valued and heard," says Professor Rankin.

"People who can approach everything they do with a mindset of inclusivity are incredibly valuable for the workforce as they encourage those around them to follow suit."

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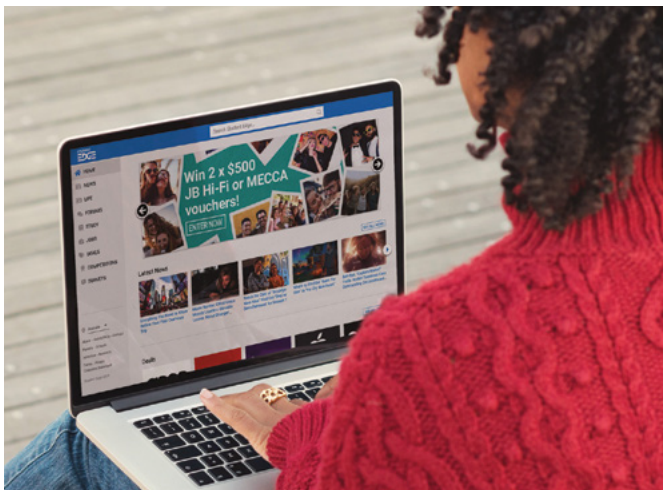
Find out how you can combine a Monash Business School degree with overseas travel, such as the opportunity to study at the University of California in the innovation hub of Silicon Valley.



Student Edge is Australia's largest member-based organisation of high school, VET and university students in Australia.

By allowing students to form and feel part of a larger collective, Student Edge is able to harness the power of the student community to support each other and give Australia's youth an advantage.

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