



Uniquely beautiful old world feel with modern facilities.



## OUR OLDEST UNIVERSITY VOTED NUMBER 1 IN AUSTRALIA

After some impressive research into what students really need for the future and how to resource and manage pathways to achieve this, Sydney University offers a refreshing repertoire of excellence in a staggering variety of courses which can be mixed across the old boundaries of academic disciplines to provide students with superb opportunities to pursue unusual degree patterns and areas of interest.

This helps them to achieve a depth of thought and insight that is highly prized by employers.

In this first article of a series covering outstanding examples of tertiary learning campuses in Australia, we begin with Sydney University that is proudly celebrating a recent Quilt Ranking vote of being the best University in Australia across a wide range of criteria and the fifth best in the world for graduate employability. It is within the 50 top Universities in the world. Why?

One of the first things to note is that it has done its homework very well on what employers are looking for. This is most instructive to educators in secondary school who are laying down strategic plans to address curriculum priorities. All students should note very carefully the hierarchical list of need that Sydney University has devised:

- Effective verbal and written **communication** skills. This timeless priority leads the list and reminds us of the crucial importance of English prose and Scientific report precision.
- **Interpersonal** Skills - the ability to network and harmonize for effective product. We all need to practise relating to different types of personalities in positive ways.
- **Analytical and Problem Solving** Skills. Are we really curious, creative and persistent in seeking solutions or do we get by on the bare minimum?
- **Teamwork** - do we know our place, functions and gifts and willingly share to find solutions?..There is not much room for loners in the brave new world of technological progress.
- **Initiative** - do we wait for others to get started or are we a self starter?
- **Information and Digital Literacy** - where and how do we look for what we need when one google hit might give us a million possibilities in a second? How do we harness Hi Tech tools for a modern workplace?
- **Planning and Organisation** - where and how do we go next and how does this relate to the big picture of ultimate aims?

The next aspect driving the new success of this University is its commitment to gaining **experience** in the work place and especially **overseas** where students will become more aware of where they fit in terms of globalisation and how to harness its advantages and appreciate cultural difference. The aim is for at least 50% of all students to study overseas as part of their degree program and there is massive resourcing available to achieve this now. There are over 300 international educational places in 42 different countries partnering with the University to achieve this and more than 320,000 alumni available to guide and encourage!

Another aspect of this wonderful University, for which it is renown, is the development of maturity and resilience of its students with vibrant campus life. There are over 200 clubs and societies to enrich students and assist in building the leadership and employability qualities that are needed in the modern workplace.

A very new initiative at Sydney University that is proving popular with students is assessing part of the degree on real life projects where valuable problem solving experience can be gained and positive assistance to areas of need rendered.

One of the most important features of Sydney University though is curriculum and degree pattern flexibility. There are over 400 areas of study to choose from and a degree schedule can be built up on these that not only meets societal need but allows for individual interests and specialities. A much more highly motivated and well rounded graduate is the result.

All of this adds up to excellent prospects of employment for Sydney University graduates. Although quite a high ATAR is required for admission there are various pathways for entry and a place at Sydney University is not beyond the student of average ability who works very hard. Discussion with a Careers Advisor and looking at the website can assist in admission strategy.

