

The impact of NSW spatial science graduates at the University of Southern Queensland for the 2010 academic year

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The continuing shortage of trained professionals and tradesman across a wide spectrum of occupations in Australia still exists and the surveying profession is one of those identified by the federal government. The University of Southern Queensland Graduation and Prize Awards ceremony were held in April, 2011 for the 2010 academic year. Many of the graduating students obtained their base qualification through the New South Wales or Australian Capital Territory TAFE system either in surveying or the various naming conventions that existed in the past. The NSW/ACT TAFE system provides a foundation for an articulated pathway to tertiary programs that can lead to registration as a land or mine surveyor upon completion of a recognised qualification. The NSW/ACT TAFE graduate is either granted a specified amount of credit towards their chosen degree program or pro rata disposition for incomplete TAFE studies and USQ has well identified articulation pathways for NSW/ACT TAFE students. For example:

Two year Diploma in Surveying, NSW TAFE	
Qualification	Diploma (NRT)
Course number	9392
National Code	CPP50107
Training Package	CPP07 - Property Services
Program area	Construction and Property

For the above course, enrolling students will receive 1.5 years of credit for both the three and four year surveying major degree programs (Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology and Bachelor of Spatial Science).

At USQ graduates and students from NSW/ACT TAFE represent a significant proportion of the students in surveying and spatial science. The number of students enrolled in surveying programs that are resident in NSW represents a significant proportion of the total spatial science student cohort at USQ and is approximately 25%. Interestingly, this was the exact graduation percentage of alumni for spatial science USQ from NSW/ACT for 2010 (17 out of 68 graduates were from NSW/ACT). The majority of those students graduated with a Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology or Associate Degree in Spatial Science, thus implying that most of the graduates are employed in the mining/engineering and GIS sectors. Some may in the future articulate into the four year program, however at this stage it seems that the majority of students are graduating with degrees from the two and three year programs and it may be a couple of years before we see a significant impact of students graduating from the four year program.

The most likely scenario for the NSW/ACT TAFE student wishing to study at USQ involves studying by part-time distance education mode whilst working full-time. External students access study packages sent by mail and/or delivered via the internet

as an on-line learning management system. Assessment is generally by submission of assignments by post or on-line and sitting examinations at centres in your regional location. The majority of external students study part-time whilst working full-time. The University of Southern Queensland offers programs majoring in surveying and GIS from two year to four year duration for full-time study or four year to eight year duration by part-time study. The programs range from an Associate Degree in Spatial Science (ADSS two year program), a Bachelor Spatial Science Technology (BSST three year program) to a full Bachelor Spatial Science Degree (BSPS four year program). The programs are articulated, resulting in seamless transition upwards from one program to another with full credit for studies completed between programs within the same major.

The program that best suits a NSW/ACT TAFE diploma student is either the the Bachelor of Spatial Science or Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology (surveying major). Unless you studied at USQ last year, you will need to apply through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) for enrolment at the QTAC web address: www.qtac.edu.au. The opening date for mid-year application is usually in April and closes in July.

Awards were presented to graduating NSW/ACT students as follows:

Graduating Student Faculty Prize for the Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology:

The IEMSA Prize was presented by the Institution of Engineering and Mining Surveyors Australia (QLD Division). The IEMSA Prize for the graduating student who achieves the highest academic standard in the Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology (Surveying) was awarded to **John McPherson**.

Faculty and University Awards

Blyth Short was recognised by the university for achieving her award with distinction whilst **Manoj Deo, John McPherson and Christopher Hall** were awarded the Dean's Commendation for outstanding performance in their program.

The graduation ceremony was held at the USQ Clive Berghofer Recreational Centre with an afternoon tea afterwards to celebrate the conferment of awards and graduation with family, friends and academic staff. For those in Sydney, the USQ Sydney graduation ceremony will be held on the 1 June, 7.30pm at the Grand Ballroom, Acer Arena, Sydney Olympic Park.

The full list of NSW/ACT of Surveying and spatial science graduates for the USQ 2010 academic year is as follows:

Master of Spatial Science Technology

Manoj Deo

Bachelor of Spatial Science (second class honours – upper division)

Matthew Stanley

Bachelor of Spatial Science

Michelle Olivier

Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology

Jacqueline Anderson

Thomas Baker

Zachery Burley

Jacob Coles

John McPherson

Pablo Martino

Brendon Schultz

Associate Degree in Spatial Science

Chad Ferrett

Christopher Hall

Nathan Ironfield

Gregory Purvis

Gene Schafer-Macdonald

Blyth Short

Daniel Tierney

Matthew Weir

NSW/ACT graduate statistics for the USQ 2010 academic year were as follows:

Program	Graduates
Bachelor of Spatial Science	2
Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology (Surveying)	5
Associate Degree Spatial Science(Surveying)	6
Bachelor of Spatial Science Technology (GIS)	2
Associate Degree Spatial Science(GIS)	2
Master of Spatial Science Technology (SURV)	1

Congratulations to the graduates representing the future of spatial science. For many it has been a long journey representing an important milestone in their career path. Graduation celebrates and represents the achievement of the individual, however the importance and satisfaction of conferment of an award demonstrates the culmination of the sacrifices of both the individual and family. In many instances the unflinching support of family is absolutely vital to graduation. Similarly, the support of the employer may be essential to the success of both the individual and the future of the employing organisation.

Congratulations to the 2010 NSW alumni of the University of Southern Queensland on their achievements.