

PETER FISHER

SCIENCE/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, Physics, Specialist Mathematics, Further Mathematics Units 3+4 Early Advancement, Religion & Society Units 3+4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English, Physics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, University Extension Mathematics.

Why did you choose these subjects? I was good at Maths and science and I enjoyed them too, so I based my subject choices around that. I also had engineering in mind for university, so I knew I would need Mathematical Methods and Physics in order to get in.

What resources did you use to choose subjects?

- VTAC Guide: listed the pre-requisite and recommended subjects for the university courses I was interested in.
- Senior Course Guide: gave information about all the subjects that were being offered.
- School staff: The College Career Adviser and Mathematics Learning Coach were both extremely helpful!!

What were your courses like? I completed the Bachelor of Science with a major in Mechanical Systems and the Master of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Melbourne. The courses were great! The Bachelor of Science started out quite “general”, and got more and more specific to mechanical systems as I got towards the end of it (quite like high school in that way). It also gave me a chance to get a taste for civil/electrical/mechanical/mechatronic engineering in my first 2 years before I had to make a decision and start funnelling my subjects into one stream.

I found there to be a very big jump in expectation moving from the Undergraduate Degree to the Masters Degree. Though the first 3 years I didn't feel too much pressure from uni, I was able to have a full social life and work quite a lot along-side my study. The last two years though (the Masters part) were very different, I had to give up part time work and was working very hard to get through without cutting down my subject load and taking extra time to get through.

What did you love about your course? The best part for me was my final year project. We were given so much freedom on what we wanted to take on, and the university provided facilities and recourses so that we could not just design a system, but build and test prototypes.

How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course? It was certainly useful to have the maths and physics background I got from high school. That being said, universities are great at providing learning pathways for students with all kinds of different education backgrounds, so there is always a chance to catch up on something you should've studied in high school.

What are you doing now in your graduate position? I am working for Ford as a Product Development Engineer. I am on a 2 year graduate program, and have started out working in Fuel Economy Development. I enjoy being given real responsibilities and being able to use the skills I learned through my study to solve real problems. The learning curve is very steep. Just like going from primary school to high school, or high school to university, I am now starting from the bottom again in going from university to my career and the amount that I am learning is very rewarding.

Course information: Bachelor of Science, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/29GEWdM>

Masters of Engineering (Mechanical), University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1UE1IK1>