

SAMUEL MILLAR

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, RMIT

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – English, Mathematical Methods, Visual Communication Design, Religion & Society, Physics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies
- Year 12: English, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Visual Communication Design, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics



Why did you choose these subjects? I was interested in the subjects and therefore knew I would be motivated to put in the extra effort to pursue the ATAR for my degree. The subjects also represented a good balance - Visual Communication and Design gave me a break from the writing and logic of English and Maths whilst Outdoor & Environmental Studies allowed me to do something practical and spend some time away from the stresses of Year 12 (i.e. through the subject's outdoor trips). Mathematical Methods was a prerequisite to get into my degree.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? A combination of the Senior School Subject Handbook, VICTER/university handbooks & websites to check prerequisites, and advice from teachers and the CCW Career Adviser.

What was your course like? This degree is excellent if you have an interest in the environment. I chose this degree because I wanted to understand the science behind our most pressing environmental issues as well as how these issues can be solved. The course exposes you to a broad range of subjects - everything from biology and ecology to environmental politics and the history of social ideas. It also lets you choose the aspect of the environment you're most interested in and connects you with potential employers so that you're more likely to get a job after you graduate.

You can do the course as a double degree or just do one of the degrees if you're more interested in particular topics. Doubles degrees in Environmental Science/Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science/Business Management are also available at RMIT.

What did you love about your course?

- Living and studying in inner city Melbourne.
- The broad range of subjects (from politics and sociology to biology & ecological management).
- A 6-month University Exchange to Norway.
- A final year study tour to Southern Vietnam.
- Field trips for Environmental Science subjects (including to Lakes Entrance in Victoria & Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef)
- An internship at the United Nations Environment Programme in Germany immediately after graduating.
- A research project for the City of Melbourne, which helped me land my first job

How have the subjects at school prepared you for your course? Every subject I did at school was important in preparing me for my course.

- English taught me to analyse and write which I needed for my sociology subjects.
- Mathematics taught me to crunch data and think logically which I needed for my science subjects.
- Outdoor & Environmental Studies helped me understand the importance of the natural environment for human wellbeing.

What are you doing now in your graduate position? My first graduate job was working as an Urban Forester for the City of Melbourne. In this role I helped develop environmental strategies to improve Melbourne's urban ecology. I am now an environmental and social justice campaigner. I currently work for a union called United Voice where I campaign to reduce the increasing gap between the rich and poor in our society. In my spare time, I campaign on climate change and other environmental issues.

What do you enjoy about your job? I mostly enjoy being able to engage with people to right social justices, to stand up for fairness and equality and to help society become more environmentally sustainable.

Course information: Bachelor of Environmental Science/Bachelor of Environment and Society, RMIT,
<http://bit.ly/29zv6ej>