Training the future leaders of a sustainable and circular bioeconomy

By Dr Joanne Tanner

The past year or so has been a very busy and exciting time for the team at BioPRIA. We have been hard at work designing and developing course content for our new postgraduate course, the Master of Bioproduct Manufacturing Engineering. Established with the support of our industrial partners in the pulp and paper sector, our focus is on making sure tomorrow’s engineers are equipped with the skills they will need to succeed in a future where bio means business!

Here’s what one of our industry partners had to say about the program:

“... We are impressed with the professional development opportunities available to our company employees through the industry-endorsed Master of Bioproduct Manufacturing Engineering and excited about the benefits the course will have to our business going forward.”

Carlo Bigaran, General Manager - Build Run Repair Visy Pulp and Paper

The course is completely online – a first for any Masters in the Faculty of Engineering. The advantage to online delivery is obvious: the videos and other online content are accessible by students at any time. This makes our course ideal for industry-based and international students who need the flexibility to be able to work at their own pace.

Don’t worry, though, you’re not alone! The lecturers are ready and available to help via discussion forums and the weekly online tutorials. The response from students in our inaugural cohort, who are all current employees of our industrial partners in the pulp and paper industry, has been overwhelmingly positive in terms of both content and delivery.

“This course has helped me realise the potential for the pulp and paper industry to produce sustainable, high value bio-products and has helped me develop valuable connections with other students from across the industry.”


Behind the scenes, the teaching and course development team have learned some valuable lessons about the differences between traditional and online delivery modes. We are still enhancing and developing a lot of the content for the core discipline units. Believe me, it takes longer than you think to write, record and produce a five-minute video! It has also been a challenge to adapt the style of a lecture into a short concept video, and we do most of the development of online teaching materials the previous semester to ensure it is all available online in time for the unit to begin. This can be a tough ask for academics and subject matter experts who like to constantly revise and perfect their teaching material!

From 2020 we plan to expand our intake by including a one-year full time enrolment option, and open up enrolments to students from other backgrounds, including international students. We are training the future leaders of a sustainable and circular bioeconomy. Get on board!


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Learn more at: www.biopria.com.au/education/masters-program
Bioproduct manufacturing is an emerging and fast-growing industry. It looks at innovatively converting natural renewable biological resources, such as wood and crop waste, into a wide range of value-added chemicals, materials and energy. With the increasing challenges of resource scarcity and environmental pollution, there is a strong global demand for bioproduct engineers who can design sustainable and environmentally-friendly materials and energy-efficient sources.

Monash Master of Bioproduct Manufacturing Engineering doesn’t just integrate core engineering principles with specialist topics in the field of bioresource processing, it enhances technical and research skills and develops entrepreneurial acumen sought by a broad range of industries, especially bio-based industries.

A qualification in bioproduct manufacturing engineering from Monash University provides you with an opportunity to pursue your passion for sustainability and innovation and be part of the growing bio futures industry.

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