RMIT Environmental Science Careers Information

Areas of Employment

Environmental Consultancies

Our graduates are employed in both small local organisations such as Eco-Wise Environmental and large multinational companies such as Coffey Geosciences, URS Corp, GHD, and Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The work our graduates do varies from sample collection, sample analysis, report writing, project design proposals etc. Our students receive training in a wide range of basic analytical techniques which also enables our graduates to work in areas not specifically associated with environmental analysis. Multinational companies provide graduates with a wide range of options for a career path.

Government Agencies

Various government agencies employ our graduates including the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) (formerly Agriculture Victoria), water authorities (Melbourne Water, City West Water, South East Water and Southern Rural Water) and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs). Catchment Management Authorities are bodies that coordinate environmental activities within designated regions of Victoria. CMAs are entrusted to look after land and waterways and to improve environmental quality and agricultural productivity in sustainable ways.

Our graduates work in diverse areas that include air sampling, water analysis, cleaner production, environmental impact of agricultural practices, weed monitoring, soil sampling, salinity monitoring and assessment and many others. In these positions our graduates use some of the wide range of skills they developed during their course.

Resource Management

A number of companies supply water both domestically and for irrigation e.g. Southern Rural Water. They also have some responsibility for industrial waste water and for the extraction of bore water.

Currently there is interest in composting waste organic matter, whether it is grape skins and seeds from vintage, milk waste or flower off-cuts. Many of these agricultural products have been sprayed with pesticides and the effect of residual pesticide may be an issue in the compost. Several of our graduates work in composting both here and overseas.

Most local councils employ environmental officers whose role is both one of education but also of developing plans and policies for environmental issues in the area. The issues that may affect local councils are storm-water, erosion, rubbish in waterways, revegetation, traffic flow, weed infestation etc.
Research and Education

Several organisations focus on research. For example the Centre for Water Studies at Monash University focuses solely on water, Ellinbank Dairy Research Centre and the Gardiner Foundation support dairy research. A small number of our graduates work in these research organisations either in the field or the laboratory.

A portion of our graduates continue in education either in a teaching role or in postgraduate research programs. The Honours and PhD programs provide varying opportunities to develop more specialised skills and experience in long term research projects.

Industry

The broad area of industry includes scientific positions, in manufacturing, mining and other resource sectors where ongoing monitoring of soil, water, vegetation and air is required to comply with government regulations. Some of our students have taken positions in these fields and have worked for organisations such as Alcoa, BHP Billiton, BP Australia, Coca-Cola Amatil and Orica. Some graduates leave the science area for various reasons and work in the business sector etc.

Environmental Science Graduate Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry Primary and Secondary</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Education</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt. Agencies &amp; Resource Management</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Consultancies</td>
<td>58%</td>
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</tbody>
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Specific tasks our graduates perform include:

- Sample collection and analysis – air, soil and water
- On-going Monitoring and Assessment
- Site Remediation
- Cleaner Production (Waste Minimisation)
- Water and Energy Audits
- Waste Management
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Policy Development
- Environmental Education and Training
- Occupational Health and Safety