

# Graduate Certificate in Timber (Processing and Building)

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### ***What is the Graduate Certificate in Timber (Processing & Building)?***

A Graduate Certificate is a four-unit course taken to develop specialist knowledge or skills. The Graduate Certificate in Timber (Processing and Building) is a four-unit part time course that provides students with advanced skills in the design, construction, maintenance and management of timber-rich buildings and structures, or the production of timber and wood products.

### ***What will I learn?***

Students will learn the basics of wood science and the role of timber and wood products as a renewable resource for society before selecting areas of study relevant to their areas of expertise and interest: timber's use as a building material, timber board or engineered wood product manufacture, or a mixture of these fields. The course deals primarily with Australian practice but highlights major international technologies and developments. It focuses on sustainable production and construction practice.

### ***How long is the course?***

To graduate, students must complete any four units, including a maximum of one elective. This is a part time course only. Students can stagger their enrolments to take from one to three years to complete the required four units. Most students will take three or four semesters to finish the course.

### ***How are the units structured?***

This course is flexibly structured for those active in industry from around Australia. Units are offered in three timber-focused streams: Core Skills, Building, and Processing, supported by an elective Management stream. In addition to the core skilled unit, students can select from the remaining units and one elective to make up their four units.

The units are:

**Timber, Its Origin & Characteristics:** Provides core understanding of the material's properties and behaviour. It includes an overview of the material before exploring its character in detail, especially wood-water relationships and the connections between its structure and performance. This unit is a prerequisite for other units in the course.

**Timber in Building Construction:** Introduces the principles, requirements and techniques of current Australian timber construction, dealing with the material used structurally or as an appearance product. The requirements of the Building Code of Australia and major performance standards are covered in detail.

**Timber & Durability in Exposed Applications:** Explores the principles and techniques of design and construction for effective timber durability. It introduces the key mechanisms of biodegradation and hazard before covering treatment and design for improving performance and extending service life.

**Board Processing: Hardwood & Softwood:** Covers the principles and practices of converting logs into stable and dry timber. It introduces the determinants that influence processing strategy before dealing with the major stages of processing solid wood boards from breakdown of the log, to dry-milling and grading.

**Engineered Wood Products:** Deals with the major stages of engineering wood product manufacture in Australia and internationally from conversion of the log into veneer or laminates and their assembly into sheets or other elements. Gluing processes and technologies are investigated, as are secondary processing and treatment.

**Electives:** Provide opportunities for students to expand their skills in areas such as finance and management. Units available online through other schools and colleges in the University include: Management, Financial Resource Management, Services Marketing, and Asset Management Practices. Students may take only one elective as part of the course.

### ***How do I complete the work for each unit?***

The course is flexibly structured online for students from around Australia involved or interested in the building design and construction industry or timber production. It can be completed part-time and largely online, from work or home. Each unit has an introductory block followed by 10 weeks of lectures, tutorials and assignments. The introductory blocks last two days for each unit and are offered in Launceston or Brisbane in February and July. The lectures and other activities can be completed from work, home, or anywhere with an internet connection.

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### ***Who can apply?***

To enter the course, applicants need to have a relevant degree or an acceptable combination of tertiary qualifications and relevant industry experience.

Generally, successful applicants will have:

- An undergraduate degree in Building, Architecture, Engineering, Forestry or related disciplines.
- A degree in any discipline combined with relevant industry experience.
- An acceptable combination of training qualifications and relevant industry experience

Applicants without a degree are encouraged to apply. They will be considered for admission under the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology's policy for the admission of non-graduates to postgraduate coursework programs. This policy is available on the UTAS website. Generally, applicants without an undergraduate degree who are admitted will be required to participate in the UniStart program and originally enrol in an Associate Degree. If successful in the first unit of study, they can then be admitted to the Graduate Certificate.

### ***Who will benefit from the course?***

The course will benefit anyone already working or wishing to work in:

- Timber production and component fabrication
- Timber marketing and distribution
- Building, landscape and infrastructure design
- Construction
- Timber building and facilities management and maintenance

It provides a career pathway for applicants with an acceptable combination of training qualifications and relevant industry experience. Graduates can work independently or be employed in either the building or timber production industries. With increasing interest in timber as a preferred material in sustainable construction, graduates can specialise in their respective disciplines in areas related to timber design, construction, and management of buildings and similar structures. Similarly, there are increasing specialised career opportunities in the processing, fabrication, marketing and distribution sectors of the timber industry for graduates and those with relevant training and experience. This includes employment in production, sales and design support.

### ***How much does the course cost?***

This is a Commonwealth-supported course. Students or sponsor companies can participate in the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) for the fees or can receive a discount for up-front payment. Fees for domestic students studying in 2011 are approximately \$1,000 per unit. Fees for international students are higher. A domestic student is a student who is an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or the holder of a permanent Visa. For more information on fees please visit the UTAS website: **[www.utas.edu.au](http://www.utas.edu.au)**

### ***When can I apply?***

The Graduate Certificate in Timber (Processing and Building) is a new course commencing in February 2011. Intakes occur in semesters one and two. Applications for semester one 2011 are accepted up until the week before the semester commences.

### ***How can I apply?***

The preferred enrolment method to the University of Tasmania for domestic students is via the Apply-by-web facility at:

**[www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/index.asp](http://www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/index.asp)**

International students can apply via the international students page: **[www.international.utas.edu.au](http://www.international.utas.edu.au)**

### ***How can I find out more?***

For more information about courses on offer, admission procedures and services for students please refer to the Admission Guide:

**[www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/index.asp](http://www.futurestudents.utas.edu.au/index.asp)** or contact the University of Tasmania's School of Architecture & Design on

**03 6324 4488** or **[enquiries@arch.utas.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@arch.utas.edu.au)**