Is IT a career for me?

Do you like flexible hours, the opportunity to travel and learning about new technology? Information Technology (IT) can be a fulfilling, well-paid and interesting career choice for women.

There are a diversity of career paths available to IT graduates – from multimedia and web design, systems analysis and software development, to user support and business support roles. IT careers are well paid (IT salaries increased 11.5% last year), and employers are struggling to fill their IT vacancies.

It's a great time to study for a career in IT.
Southern Cross University takes a special interest in women who are studying Information Technology. The Women in Technology (WIT) program encourages and supports female students to successfully complete their study. Best of all, the WIT program is totally free for students.

**How can WIT help?**
The WIT program can help with:
- encouragement and support from other WIT members;
- advice about potential careers;
- an online community of other females studying information technology;
- regular social get-togethers for female students;
- matching with a mentor (a student who has been there, done that);
- scholarships for new and continuing students.

**Scholarships**
The WIT Program offers 4 scholarships per year to students studying Information Technology degrees, or majoring in Information Technology. The WIT Commencing Student scholarship is available to new students, and the WIT Support Scholarships are available for new or continuing students in Information Technology degrees.

For more information see www.scu.edu.au/wit or email wit@scu.edu.au

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**Mentoring**
Each new female Information Technology student is matched with a mentor – an experienced student who will encourage new students to enjoy their study and succeed in their course. WIT mentors share their experiences of how to study technical units, who to contact when help is needed, where to find information, hints and tips on how to organise for university life, and more.

**Study Choices**
At Southern Cross University there are four courses available for women interested in IT:
- Bachelor of Information Technology (B.IT.)
- Bachelor of Applied Computing (B.App.Comp.)
- Associate Degree of Information Technology (AD.IT.)
- Bachelor of Business (Information Systems Major) (B.Bus)

**On Campus or Distance Study?**
All the Information Technology courses available at Southern Cross University are available at the Coffs Harbour campus, or by distance study. Distance study students are not required to attend any on-campus workshops for information technology units, throughout their degree.

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"Studying IT at SCU is amazing. I learn about the latest technologies, develop applications, write programs, work on team projects, and liaise with clients for projects. I never realised how many diverse careers are available in IT. I've decided to major in Interactive Multimedia which involves using my creativity to design and develop games, websites, digital media, flash animations and manage projects.

WIT supports and encourages me in my IT studies. It is great to hang out and chat to other women who are interested in IT. We've also special guests who tell us about their rise to success and their experiences working in a mostly male-oriented IT industry. Studying IT is the best decision I've made."

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**Profile Megan Kellar**

"I started my degree at Southern Cross University in 2003 and moved to Sydney at the end of 2006. I'm now a creative Design Manager for MediaSmart which is part of Telstra. My role is to be a creative resource internally and for external clients ... mainly creating flash banner ads, micro-sites, splash pages and small games.

It is an enlightening experience to work in an industry where you are in the minority. I feel I have an advantage in this field being a female as I can bring a new perspective – which is sought after from a range of employers."

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**Profile Holly Simpson**

"I started my degree at Southern Cross University in 2003 and moved to Sydney at the end of 2006. I'm now a creative Design Manager for MediaSmart which is part of Telstra. My role is to be a creative resource internally and for external clients ... mainly creating flash banner ads, micro-sites, splash pages and small games.

It is an enlightening experience to work in an industry where you are in the minority. I feel I have an advantage in this field being a female as I can bring a new perspective – which is sought after from a range of employers."

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**More information**
For more information about study options for women in IT, the WIT program or WIT scholarships, please contact the Program Coordinator:

email: wit@scu.edu.au

mail: WIT Program Coordinator  School of Commerce & Management Southern Cross University  Hogbin Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

web: www.scu.edu.au/wit

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