



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Raffles College's Masters degrees - flexible where it counts**

Raffles College of Design and Commerce is the first private college to deliver its own accredited Master of Design and Master of Commerce degrees for individuals who wish to stand out and get ahead in business and creative industries.

Entry requirements for these comprehensive, affordable programs are selective, but remain flexible enough to consider skills and experience in the application process and practicing professionals are encouraged to apply.

Jason Brown, 38, from Sydney, begins his Raffles Master of Design program in a week's time after 10 years' working as a graphic designer.

"I learned my skills on the job," says Brown, who works part-time as a designer for an engineering firm. "I was at the point where I thought I'd like to understand formal theory better, improve my skills and expand my interpretation of design.

Brown says when he was exploring options for a postgraduate degree, he found many institutions were inflexible regarding his lack of qualifications, while on the other side of the equation, he felt there were some courses on offer that did not seem to be setting a very high standard.

"There didn't seem to be many widely-known and respected graphic design courses available, especially for someone like me with no pre-qualifications, so the course at Raffles was the perfect option for me," said Brown.

Developed in response to demand from Raffles graduates and industry professionals such as Jason Brown, the Raffles Master of Design program provides ongoing professional development and life-long learning integrated into a formal postgraduate degree. In addition to meeting the needs of recent graduates, the degree is aimed at professionals returning to study to further develop their skills, research capabilities and knowledge base while gaining a valuable qualification.

The course runs for three full-time semesters over one and a half years or up to six part-time semesters over three years. There are four specialisations: Digital Media, Fashion Design, Graphic Design and Interior Design.



For Raffles student Marzena Szmigilska, 33, the Master of Commerce program is proving a great way of establishing her knowledge of local business practices.

Like the Master of Design, the Master of Commerce is an opportunity for undergraduate students to further their studies for their professional careers and for industry professionals to upgrade their qualifications or launch into a new career.

Szmigilska completed a Bachelor of Marketing in her native Poland before immigrating to Australia seven years ago. Since then she has worked here as a Marketing Supervisor.

“I was doing an Advanced Diploma of Management at Raffles to improve my English and business qualifications when the College offered me entry to the Master course instead,” Szmigilska says.

“The teachers and the environment at Raffles are great and I’m hoping to use this qualification to move into higher level marketing management here or in Poland.”

Szmigilska started the degree in October last year and is finding the work, life and study balance surprisingly easy.

“I have a young daughter but with the support of my husband I’m finding it OK to manage everything. I’m really enjoying the course and enjoying life.”

There are exit points after each semester for the Master of Commerce. Students leaving after one semester gain a Graduate Certificate and those who leave after semester two gain a Graduate Diploma. There are 6 majors available: Design Management, Finance, Hospitality, Management, Marketing and Tourism.

The Master of Commerce and Master of Design both cost \$18,000 in total. A Graduate Diploma of Commerce is \$12,000 and a Graduate Certificate of Commerce is \$6,000. In 2009, the College is offering a special 20 per cent fee discount to alumni of Raffles College (or its previous incarnation, KvB Institute) to study for the Master of Design.

There are four start dates for both postgraduate courses every year: April, July, October and February. See [www.raffles.edu.au](http://www.raffles.edu.au) for more information on each course and how to apply.

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