Technology education = a great career

TECHNOLOGY IS AN APPROVED SUBJECT FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE and teaches a broad technological literacy which equips students with skills and knowledge essential to all kinds of work and tertiary study.

Technology is an ideal foundation subject for all areas of study and work.

Students also develop essential life and work skills such as: good communication skills, both written and verbal; the ability to work in a team; problem-solving; self-management; lateral and divergent thinking; initiative; a strong work ethic; and good interpersonal skills.

Technology students can build these skills through practical projects that involve interactions with business, industry and local government. They are encouraged to explore techniques and develop understandings in such fields as: construction, manufacturing and processing, design, ICT, structures and machines. Technology students often end up with varied and exciting career paths.

The young technologists below share how the study of Technology has benefited them in their current careers. They are all Futureintech Ambassadors – a group of 493 professionals who have made themselves available to work in schools as mentors and to help students in their studies.

To ensure you are providing students with the best opportunities in Technology, direct your staff to **www.techlink.org.nz**.

For more about the careers and tertiary study options Technology can lead to please visit **www.futureintech.org.nz**.

Ben Harris

Civil Engineering Cadet
Opus International Consultants

Year 13: *Design Technology, Graphics, Biology, Agriculture/ Horticulture*

Ben is a cadet with the Road Network Maintenance Management Team in Opus's Waipukurau Office. The company supports him financially as he works full time and completes his diploma in civil engineering.

For Ben, taking Design Technology at school helped him develop skills and knowledge which have been useful in his current job.

"With civil engineering we have to deal with clients' needs every day. We gather information through site investigations to get a feel for the site and what it is made up of.

"We then go to the client with a variety of proposed designs, they communicate back what they are after and the most feasible option and then the construction process starts.

"This whole process relates back to the basic skills that I had learnt in Design Technology, with forming good client relationships and problem-solving techniques, from investigation and design through to creating a final product."

Anita Jackson

CAD Technician
Redco NZ Limited

Senior secondary: *Graphics & Design Technology, Maths, English*
Tertiary: *Diploma in Architecture, Unitec; Bachelor of Engineering Technology, University of Southern Queensland*

Anita designs detailed consent and construction drawings for industrial, commercial, and residential buildings.

"Drawing to submit to the council for building consent usually makes up a large part of my day. I also deal with client requests, and handle problems on site."

Technology at school helped Anita develop what she refers to as 'mental gymnastics', a skill she says has been very useful in her job.

"It involves being able to multi-task, problem-solve, develop solutions, be creative and think laterally. This, together with basic drawing and construction skills and learning about the design process, has really helped."

"The design process is something that is important no matter what my position. School Graphics and Design really emphasised this process, which leads directly into the production of models which helps develop a 3D imagination."

Matthew Lee

Product Design Engineer
Fisher and Paykel Appliances

Senior secondary: *Graphics, Hard Materials Technology, English, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus*
Tertiary: *: Bachelor of Technology, in Product Development, Massey University*

As a product design engineer, Matthew does performance testing on appliances to find out what changes can be made to improve them. It's a complex process that requires him to know the workings of the appliance, inside and out.

For Matt, secondary study in Technology provided him with a range of skills which are highly beneficial in his current position.

"The good thing about Technology is that we could create things such as drawings or models for products that were made for a particular purpose. It gave us the opportunity to improve something for someone, an aspect which has always appealed to me."

Matt's job has its share of challenges that he also faced as a Technology student, including time management and working to a deadline. But Matthew finds the enjoyable work makes it easy for him to stay motivated.

Marea Whalley

Graduate Project Engineer
Fonterra in Hautapu

Senior secondary: *Food Technology, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, English*
Tertiary: *Bachelor of Engineering, in Biotechnology, Master of Dairy Science & Technology (in progress), Massey University*

Marea is on the Fonterra Graduate Technical Programme, which gives her work experience in the dairy industry while she completes her Master's degree.

At school Marea took Food Technology, which she found complimented other school subjects such as Chemistry, Biology and Physics well, and equipped her with the skills needed in her current position.

"In Technology I developed a range of skills that have really helped me out. I learnt about the importance of research, the design and production process, the practical side of theoretical application and developed computer literacy.

"I also gained communication skills, self motivation and learnt how to relate to others."

Good interpersonal skills is essential to Marea's line of work, as she interacts with professionals from all areas of the industry.