



# Geomatic Engineering in Australia

*Ida Jazayeri\**

Hi there!

My name is Ida, and I have just completed a Bachelor of Geomatic Engineering at The University of Melbourne, down under in Australia. I moved to Melbourne from Perth in Western Australia having no idea of what I wanted to study. While wandering around the university campus, hoping to find something exciting and different, the geomatics department caught my eye. As I didn't know what »geomatics« was, I decided to go check it out. The first thing I saw was a big satellite photo of earth, and the second was a big bowl of lollies... That did it, I enrolled. At that moment I wasn't aware of the fact that the next 5 years were going to be some of the best years of my life, filled with so many wonderful memories and great times.

The geomatics department is quite small, compared to other departments in the Faculty of Engineering. There are about 50 students in each year (about 200 altogether) and everyone beco-

mes friends quickly. The professors know all the students by name and there is a strong feeling of community. This was great for me, and as I didn't know anybody in Melbourne, it really helped me settle in my new city. The subjects taught cover a broad range of disciplines including photogrammetry, remote sensing, satellite positioning and geodesy, GIS, surveying, land administration and law, integrated systems and research. Each year has two semesters; the classes run from March to May and from August to October, so there are plenty of holidays. At the end of first and second year we have a field camp in the beautiful Australian countryside, to put into practise many of the skills we learnt throughout the year. These camps are extremely fun and present a great opportunity to get to know each other as well as our professors without university pressures.

The social part of geomatics is organized by the Melbourne University

Geomatics Society, or MUGS, as we call it. Every year they organize pool nights, trivia nights, lots of barbecues and drinks at the pub... And then comes the highlight of the year.... The geomatics ball. This is always a memorable night where we all dress formally, drink cocktails and dance the night away. This event also provides enough gossip for the rest of the year, where people have been known to find their soul mate or the person they must avoid in the corridors for the rest of their degree.

The University of Melbourne is located in the heart of the city and is surrounded by lots of great restaurants, coffee shops, cinemas, galleries, markets, and is a short walk or tram ride to all the attractions of Melbourne. It has lots of beautiful old buildings and gardens, and most importantly, lots of smiling faces. I have many friends that are studying here on exchange and they all really love being here. Each person

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in my graduating class has found a well-paid job in a reputable company, working in cities all around Australia. There are employment opportunities in many fields and job shortages that call for geomatics expertise. I would recommend everyone, who has the opportunity to study or work here, to come! Melbourne is a fantastic place to study and live in. It has a population close to 4 million with people from all around the world. This is a cosmopolitan city with a positive vibe, an international platform with amazing things to see and do, being voted one of the world's most liveable cities on several occasions.

Another interesting and useful information is that the university has a great exchange programme. We enjoy being hosts to new students that come to the Department of Geomatics each year from all around the world.

For more information about The University of Melbourne check out [www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au) For exchange information go to [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/saex/index.html](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/saex/index.html). You can also have a look at the geomatics department website at [www.geom.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.geom.unimelb.edu.au). I am now doing a postgraduate degree in the Department of Geomatics to stay a little bit longer. You can always contact me

if you want to know anything else about geomatics in Melbourne. Feel free to write me an email at [ida.jazayeri@gmail.com](mailto:ida.jazayeri@gmail.com).

We are lucky that in a field such as ours, we can build a strong international community, not only to further advance our academia but also to share cultures and build friendships. I'm looking forward to being a part of our international community and I hope to see some of you down under sometime soon!

All the best,  
Ida ♦