

Science slant the right business mix

MELISSA Raux did not know what type of postgraduate course she was looking for.

But when it appeared before her at an information night, she recognised it instantly.

Raux, now 29, is studying Monash University's Master of Business in Communicating Science and Technology.

It suits her perfectly, providing business knowledge and skills but with a science focus. After completing VCE in 1995, Raux studied a Bachelor of Science at Deakin.

"I did physiology, not with any specific career in mind, but because I enjoyed sciences and liked studying them," she says.

After graduating, she spent six years in laboratory work, including three in a small veterinary pathology laboratory.

Though she quite enjoyed the work, Raux knew she wanted more from a career.

"It (work) was interesting but I wanted to know more.

"I couldn't see myself doing lab work for the rest of my life."

Having already checked out postgraduate alternatives, Raux had not found any courses that appealed.

She considered an MBA but, because it did not relate directly to her science background, decided against it.

Attending a postgraduate information session at Monash changed everything.

"I heard about the Master of

Business in Communicating Science and Technology so I found out more information. I thought this is great because it is tailored especially to science students who want to develop a business background."

Raux started the full-time course at the beginning of this year, giving up work to do so.

"It is a one-year intensive course so you can get back into the work force quickly," she says. "It has been a while since I studied but everything moves so quickly that you get used to it. I am really enjoying it."

Because she has always studied science, Raux is relishing the

opportunity to build some foundations in the business area.

"It has really opened my eyes and there will be lots of different things I can pursue in future," she says.

"I will probably work in an environment where I will use my science background but in something not so hands-on — perhaps a consultancy company, an investment bank or a biotechnology company."

Academic expectations are predictably higher at postgraduate level, Raux adds, but if you are prepared to put in the work the rewards are there.

She recommends other science graduates consider a business course.

"Even if you stay in research or work as a research scientist, it helps to have a basic understanding of business requirements and to get a picture of what is required to commercialise your research."



Just perfect: Melissa Raux.