Timber in building and design units will benefit those committed to sustainable development and students studying architecture and related design disciplines as well as engineering, construction and facilities management, forestry, education and similar courses.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

SPECIALIST UNITS: TIMBER IN BUILDING AND DESIGN

WHY STUDY SPECIALIST TIMBER UNITS?
These provide students with the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge and skills in design and construction with timber, the major renewable material available for building. They focus strongly on the requirements of sustainable building and production practice in Australia and internationally.

WHAT UNITS ARE AVAILABLE?
One unit is available to undergraduate students while five units are available to students with an existing degree or those enrolled in a course-work Masters degree. All have a weighting of 12.5% of a full academic year.

The units cover the basics of wood science, the role of timber and wood products as renewable resources for society, timber’s use as a building material, and its production as sawn timber or an engineered wood product. A detailed outline of each unit is provided on the following page.

WHEN DO THE UNITS START?
Intakes occur in both Semester 1 and 2. To commence study in Semester 1 (late February) you can apply from August of the year prior until the beginning of Semester 1. To commence study in Semester 2 (mid-July) you can apply from April of the same year until the beginning of Semester 2. However, it is highly recommended that you apply well before the beginning of semester to allow plenty of time to get organised.

Generally, semesters are 13 weeks long. Exact dates are available at www.utas.edu.au.

HOW DO I COMPLETE THE WORK FOR EACH UNIT?
The units are flexibly structured and can be completed online. Each unit has 12 weeks of content made available progressively throughout the semester. Weekly content can be downloaded in various formats and may include online lectures, support videos, readings and quizzes. There is regular phone, and online support. Unit assessment is through completing the quizzes and problem-based assignments.

HOW CAN I ENROL?
The units are available to those studying at another university. Students must complete a cross-institutional application form which can be found on the Enrolments page of the UTAS website www.utas.edu.au/enrolments

Cross Institutional enrolment is where a student enrolls in a unit at UTAS for credit towards an award at another Australian tertiary institution in which the student is concurrently enrolled. Before an application for cross-institutional enrolment can be approved, the student must gain and submit the home institution’s written confirmation that the units applied for will be credited towards their degree. Domestic students also need to include details of their current fee status.

HOW MUCH DO THE UNITS COST?
The unit costs will vary with the student current fee status: Commonwealth supported or Tuition fee paying. See the Course and Unit guide at: http://courses.utas.edu.au/
UNIT AVAILABLE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

KDA355 Timber, Its Origins and Characteristics

Available Semester 1 and 2. This unit provides students wishing to produce or use timber and wood products effectively with core understandings of the materials’ properties and behaviour. It includes an overview of the use and resource for timber before exploring wood’s character in detail, especially wood-water relationships and the connections between wood’s cellular structure and performance characteristics such as strength, appearance and durability.

KDA504 Timber in Building Construction

Available Semester 2 only. This unit provides students with the principles, requirements and techniques of current Australian design with timber. Timber in use as either a structural or appearance product in building must satisfy the performance requirements dictated by building regulations, standards of practice and market expectation. This unit deals with the current product suite used structurally in low-rise building or as an appearance product.

KDA505 Timber & Durability in Exposed Applications

Available Semester 1 only. This unit provides students with the principles and techniques of design and construction for effective timber durability when it is used outside or in other exposed applications. Timber’s durability and resistance to biological and other attack is related to its natural durability, any applied treatment and the exposure that results from inclusion in a structure. This unit introduces the key mechanisms of biodegradation before covering design options for reducing attack, improving performance and extending service life.

KDA506 Board Processing: Hardwood & Softwood

Available Semester 2 only. This unit provides students with the principles and practices of converting logs into stable and dry timber. Logs from the forests are transformed into timber useful for construction and other uses through a multi-stage production process largely shaped by the character of the initial resource and the intended market for the final product. This unit introduces the determinants that influence processing strategy before dealing with the major stages of processing solid wood boards. It highlights the importance of quality control and information management to value recovery.

KDA507 Engineered Wood Products

Available Semester 1 only. This unit provides students with the principles and practices of manufacturing and using engineering wood products. These products overcome the size, structural and design constraints inherent in solid wood boards through a process of log breakdown and reassembly. This unit provides students wishing to produce and use these products with the principles and practice of major production processes and design approaches used in Australia and internationally. It introduces the determinants that influence processing strategy before dealing with the major stages of engineered wood product manufacture and use.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information about courses on offer, admission procedures and services for students please refer to the Admission Guide: www.utas.edu.au/admissions or contact the University of Tasmania’s School of Architecture and Design on 03 6324 4488 or enquiries@arch.utas.edu.au.