CPD is the KEY to a DEGREE at The University of Sydney!

As there is no recognised career path into Australian FM as yet, those responsible for delivering FM services have necessarily come from trades and allied professions. The FM profession is addressing this lack through the FM Action Agenda’s commitment to remedying this deficiency through Actions 7, 8, 9, and 10. This comprehensively addresses all levels of training from in-school awareness to University courses. Simultaneously, the profession led by the FMA is reformulating its approach to professional accreditation, again from vocational training through to Continuing Professional Development.

Many practising Facility Managers have risen through trades, or arrived from cognate qualifications. There is a career advantage if their prior qualifications focussed by the skills picked up ‘on-the-job’ can be collected, assessed and packaged into recognised qualifications: indeed, this is what the FMA’s accreditation process seeks to do. On the other hand, ‘training’ develops student’s skills to be able to take on new or more demanding roles.

Once recognised by accreditation the FMA has an expectation that facility managers will engage in annual continued professional development. For this purpose the University of Sydney opens its postgraduate degree units of study to CPD students.

The University of Sydney units of study are taken in intensive mode, that is the presentations are given over full working days. Two days (in some cases over a weekend) are spent in lectures, and the skills transferred are tested by applying them to an assignment – a ‘consultancy report’ undertaken on the student’s place of work. This is followed several weeks later by a further two days of lectures and a summary report on reviewing what has been learned and how these new abilities assists facility managers to do their jobs. The purpose of the assignments is to demonstrate the student’s ability to carry out a task, and the ultimate success is when a student’s assignment becomes a standard operating procedure at their place of work.

For those undertaking CPD, there is no requirement to undertake assessed assignments. For those who do, there is the opportunity to collect the credit points gained, to be used towards a Sydney University graduate award – Graduate Certificate in Facilities Management (GradCertFM), Graduate Diploma in Facilities Management (GradDipFM), or a Masters Degree in Facilities Management (MFM). The career benefit of the status of a University graduate degree (particularly a University of Sydney graduate degree) should not be underestimated.

In semester 2 2006 (commencing 24th July) we are offering units of study for CPD. Some of these are outlined below.

**Operational Facility Management: 17 – 18 August, 21 – 22 September**
This unit looks at the general issues surrounding the use of facilities in general. The major consideration is aligning the management of the facility to the organisational
purpose, and developing metrics to measure performance. Major operational cost centres are considered.

**Contract and Project Management: 24 – 25 August, 5 – 6 October**
This unit considers the skills and processes needed to run contracts, particularly those involving service level agreements. However, the emphasis of the unit is on managing projects, considering the contents of the Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBOK). For this ‘Project Management Planning and Control Techniques’ by Rory Burke (ISBN 0-9582391-5-0) is used.

**Energy Management in Buildings: 9 – 11 August, 15 – 17 September**
The costs of energy, particularly grid delivered electricity, are a considerable running cost in a building. Energy usage is becoming increasingly significant in the property industry as workplaces are differentiated on their ‘energy star rating’s. Energy ratings in design have to be substantiated by the demonstrated energy performance in use. This unit introduces students to the forms of energy rating in design. Moreover, students are shown how to undertake energy audits and, reviews the means of managing energy in use.

**Computer Aided Facility Management: 29 – 30 July, 2 – 3 September**
Information is intrinsic to management. However, there is a cost to collecting and maintaining information. Facility managers need to know how to determine what data to collect, and how to transform the data into management information. Computer systems are essential to deal with data, simply because of the amount and complexity facility management involves. This unit looks at the need for management information, existing CAFM systems, and maintenance management systems.

**Risk Management and OH&S: 3 – 4 August, 7 – 8 September**
Everything organisations have to do to reach their goals carries an element of risk. Therefore these risks have to be assessed. Risks include those to the safety of persons, property and data, each of which could threaten work continuity. Risk must be examined and accepted, and measures put in place to minimise it. A major legal requirement incumbent upon organisations is Occupational Health & Safety. This not only impacts on the way organisations carry out what they do, it directly impacts on the workplace and the responsibilities of those charged with managing it.

Why not discuss your CPD requirements with Lesley Vanderkwast, Professional Development Manager, on (02) 903 66104 or email lesley@arch.usyd.edu.au
Further information can be found at [http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/general/profdevelop.htm](http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/general/profdevelop.htm)