



Applications for semester 2

Inventing the Future (ItF) is a team based interdisciplinary innovation program for postgraduate students. We use innovation to help tackle real, significant problems.

Over a course of 12 weeks, students take part in the complete process of innovation, from ideation to prototyping to a funding pitch to industry, enabled by interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-faculty teaching. Inventing the Future is a 6 credit point unit (**INFC7000**), or it can be taken as a co-curricular project. The course is jointly taught by academics in Science, Engineering, Design and Business.

Several alumni have gone on to develop companies based on their ItF projects:

www.flurosat.com/
<http://www.earth-ai.com/#/>
<https://www.bioscout.com.au/>
<http://www.metasense.com.au/>
<https://carapac.co/>

There is competitive seed funding for further prototyping after the after the course.

Themes for 2020

Times of crisis are also times when change is possible. This year, we'll be using Inventing the Future to imagine how the world could be better after the two main challenges of 2020: bushfires and Covid-19.

How can we respond better to crises, and what opportunities are there to explore? You'll need to develop your own response, but here are some ideas to get you started:

Bushfires

More rapid detection of fires in remote areas; robust communication for emergencies; localised clean power systems; regeneration of ecosystems; mental health support; fire resistant design and architecture.

The world after Covid-19

Telehealth and diagnostics supporting telehealth; tools for remote working and teaching; re-thinking conferences; just-in-time manufacturing and logistics, opportunities for collaboration and virtual reality in the arts.



Inventing the Future

Teaching ItF in 2020

Lectures and class sessions

This year we anticipate that most of the teaching will be online due to Covid-19. If restrictions eased, it may be possible to meet on campus. Lecture material will be made available online, and the timetabled content will include mentored workshops, Q&A sessions, and time for the teams to work together in class.

Prototyping

Prototyping will be made available through [DMAF](#), in the School of Design. Currently this is operating as a bureau service. There is a budget to support prototyping.

Workshops

This year we will be making 3 workshops available to ItF students. One is compulsory - Complex thinking, provided by [Ponder](#), with resources.

Two new, additional workshops will be available before the start of the course, as preparation. These will be on the [Circular Economy](#) and **how to make a video presentation**. These will include both online material and practical components.

Collaboration

For the first time, enabled by the online delivery, we will be including students from **Swinburne University** in our cohort. This is a pilot to explore collaboration as a means to introduce different perspectives, skills and experience to the cohort.

To learn more about ItF have a look at this video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=e16WUTr6hpU

Eligibility

Inventing the Future can be taken for credit by Postgraduate students from the Faculties of Science, Engineering, School of Business and School of Architecture, Design and Planning. It can also be taken as a co-curricular activity.

To assist with planning and resourcing, we request that you submit an [application form](#) prior to enrolling.

Applications will be accepted up to **1st August**.

If you have further questions, feel free to email maryanne.large@sydney.edu.au