

Robert Bell- Music- Transcript

<https://www.vu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-music-abmu>

G'day, my name's Robert Bell I am the music lecturer and the music specialisation co-ordinator here at Victoria University. For me music is a lifelong passion anyway and I've been doing it since I was a little kid. I remember many years ago having really positive experiences of studying music at university and that's something I feel really strongly about bringing to my students here at Vic Uni.

Another thing that we do is try and connect our students with other musicians out there in industry, whether its locally, nationally or even internationally. We run a subject called electronic composition and production. Part of what they do is find artists from anywhere around the world, remix those pieces and put them out there for feedback and comment. We have a lot of industry partnerships we've got a lot of connections with I guess what you would call the real world. It's a real point of difference that we have here, that we're engaging with students with the industry of their choice really from the moment they start here. It's not waiting until they graduate to get out there and connect with other people. It's critically important to understand the students and where their different levels of abilities are when they begin studying but where they will want to go by the time they finish as well, and what they are trying to achieve out of it. We get students with a wide range of previous skills all the way from no experience whatsoever right through to years of experience.

Adapting the assessments and assignments to different levels so that different students in different levels can choose the level they are comfortable with and that's okay. I actually find that the diversity of the people who come to VU is one of my favourite things about being here. Can be embraced to the max and we really encourage people to bring their own culture into their work and into the class room and to celebrate the difference. From time to time students will come in to the subjects that I teach and they feel a bit hesitant or intimidated by, for example, the computer technology. What I'll try and do and sit with them one on one for some time get them familiar with whatever it is they're not comfortable with. One of our mantras so to speak is digital digital digital. Keeping up with the digital technologies and current climate of the world. We're a very high tech university, we do a lot of work actually with the people from visual art, digital photography and so on, making mixed media product and composing music for film or for art installations and all manner of interesting things. I love it. It's great. I get to teach music all day.