A civil engineer does a lot of things; they range from planning to designing to construction and overseeing construction in all fields. From hydraulics to geotechnology, infrastructure, construction, and development.

I find buildings and structures and the way things work exciting. Engineering allows you to get to the nuts and bolts of how things stand up.

To have a successful career in civil engineering you need to have a good foundation, in mathematics and physics. So when the students come on board into our course, we tend to build and expand on the knowledge that they have gained in these two topics. Our course itself has a theme of sustainability that runs through it.

The best thing about the courses is the very wide variety, so you get a feel of everything, you get your geotechnology, hydraulics and your structures which are three key areas and you get a good experience in all of them.

I think the best thing about the course here is that there is not a great deal of us. There is not hundreds and hundreds of students fighting for the lecturer’s time.

You can talk to your lecturer’s one on one, you can talk to your tutors; they know you by first name. You can just walk into your lecturer’s office and they are generally available right then and there.

In the last ten years we have transformed this course, we’ve transformed it from an engineering toolkit course. To one now which is we think is far more engaging with the needs of the community and the challenges these students are facing now and particularly into the future.

A lot of the local industries provide scholarships to the student which has such bonuses as paid vacation work, they get financial support throughout their university career, they get career mentoring and also in most cases a guarantee of a job which is very important and a great incentive for the students.

I have been working with the Rural City of Wangaratta for the last four and half years, they gave me a gap year position, where I worked with engineers and I did a traineeship. At the end of my gap year they offered me a scholarship they give me a lump sum scholarship every year, and paid employment every summer and every winter. It also gives me really good practical experience. I have done project management, traffic management, dealing with subdivisions, drainage, all manner of things and it’s really helpful for some of the work I do at uni.

Presently we have about eight students on scholarships, so it’s a good start for us and hopefully a good start for the students.

This year we have just actively recruited six graduate engineers, and started a program, and three of those are from La Trobe Uni. Very very pleased to have them on board, great students.

Bendigo is a great place to live; it’s got a great lifestyle great social life, heaps of activities.

People here are very good, very friendly, great public transport system easy to get around.

I am on units at the moment, which is really really fun and social. You can walk around and know people. Rather than in Melbourne you walk around and half a million people there and you just don’t know anyone.

To be a good civil engineer you have to have an inquisitive mind to be a good thinker, to be a responsible individual.

Real interest in engineering and curiosity, there the things where really interested in. Obviously they have some insight into science and mathematics, and they want to pursue that further, in the very broad field of civil engineering.

Over the next five six years, maybe ten years the demand for engineers, environmental engineers, chemical engineers, civil engineers, water engineers, mechanical engineers is just going to outstrip the supply and so it’s a huge growth area.

There is so many jobs out there at the moment, if you like physics and maths well it’s probably definitely the course to choose