

CUDOS POSTGRADUATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The inaugural scholarship was awarded for studies commencing in 2013 to Matt Collins from the Sydney node of CUDOS.



Matt says, my interest in starting a business was first sparked by attending the CUDOS Entrepreneurship Seminar Series that began in late 2011. Listening to the Photonic Entrepreneurs speak about their, often successful, stories of transforming an idea into a commercial product excited and inspired me to pursue entrepreneur studies.

Being awarded the CUDOS Postgraduate Entrepreneurship Scholarship allowed me to enrol in a Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise, The University of Sydney. So far I have studied Strategy Innovation and Global Business, Intellectual Property Management, and Start-ups.

These courses laid solid business foundations in both business frame strategy and industry jargon. They also created opportunities to be involved with a new community of like-minded people from a broad range of backgrounds, including artists, entrepreneurs, software experts and scientists. Through this network I've attended many seminars, workshops and events that have all been invaluable experiences.

At CUDOS a wide variety of photonic devices have been developed that I believe have the potential to become commercial products. Commercialisation of research can be very motivating. However, any idea is only the starting point for a business, and entrepreneurs learn to critically evaluate an idea both in terms of the business model (how will you make money?) and the value proposition (is your product really a pain killer or just a vitamin?). This mindset can help researchers focus on aiming their devices to solve big real world problems.

The opportunities that have come from the CUDOS Postgraduate Entrepreneurship Scholarship have been invaluable and I'm sure will give me a head start on any commercial pursuit, and hopefully lead to successfully commercialising an innovative photonic device in the near future.