The Hertfordshire MBA



Julia Barnard Environmental Profiles Technical Consultant, BRE

I work in a relatively small team within the Centre for Sustainable Products. Over the years we've had a lot of transitions with really only minimal representation at the highest levels. I've personally had lots of ideas to raise awareness and market who we are and what we do, but that can be difficult within a large organisation. With sustainability issues at the forefront of a lot of business these days, it has become more important to get our knowledge and services to a wider arena.

Then, out of the blue I got a letter about the Hertfordshire MBA. Initially I put it to one side, but after a while I realised it could give me the knowledge and tools to help make the business cases for my ideas.

The main attraction for choosing Hertfordshire was that this is where I did my undergraduate degree. Plus I work in nearby Watford. However, I wasn't sure what to expect, so I went to an open day. The whole atmosphere was very welcoming and Muditha, the course director, was really happy to chat and took a real interest in what I was doing.

I enjoy the course, particularly the more general business aspects. There's a genuine culture of debate and lots of encouragement to express your views. There's a real emphasis on thinking for yourself and not taking anything at face value. The biggest challenge if you're working is fitting everything in. You get really good at time management! Fortunately, the University has excellent resources; the staff are all approachable, helpful people, and the ability to access all the course materials via the internet is incredibly useful.