



Looking for ways to broaden your knowledge?

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A few summers ago I stumbled across the Southern Institute of Technology's (SIT) website. At the time they were advertising their online Certificate of Environmental Management. I was initially interested in this to compliment the degree I was already studying at Lincoln, and the more I looked into it the more interested I became. While some of the content involved in this course did overlap with my degree, there was also a lot of content that was appealing to me and unavailable through Lincoln, so I signed up.

I started the online certificate at the start of 2017 and finished it by June 2018. I was required to complete five mandatory courses over a maximum period of two years. Because I was already studying full-time through Lincoln, I split the courses up over three semesters. This meant my workload significantly increased and at some points I was doing six courses per semester. At times this was slightly hectic; however, the staff at SIT were flexible and understanding, adapting to my course requirements at Lincoln and giving me extensions when I needed them.

Some of the papers through SIT included marine and freshwater ecology, conservation management, resource management and environmental law. While courses offered at Lincoln are similar, the papers through SIT are split into several segments, each of which covers a broad range of information focussed on places throughout New Zealand. The entire certificate can be done through distance learning and is covered under SIT's Zero Fees policy and costs just over 500 dollars (depending on individual circumstances). The 500 dollars includes administration charges and seven dollars per credit.

At the time I signed up for this certificate I thought it would be a productive way to fill in the spare time which seemed abundant in first year. This proved to be easier said than done and my time management skills have certainly improved as a result. Although doing the certificate meant more work, I was able to broaden my knowledge surrounding environmental management extensively. It has allowed me to obtain a more holistic perspective and gain a range of knowledge that I have since been able to apply to other situations. In terms of my future career, I feel as though this is a good addition to my CV as it gives me an additional qualification and shows that I am able to prioritise, succeed, set and achieve goals, and manage my time so that important deadlines are not compromised.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience of studying through SIT and I have only positive things to report. I would definitely recommend this course to anyone else who is currently studying or working in the field of environmental management. More information can be found on the course website:

<https://www.sit.ac.nz/Courses/Environmental-Management#>