**Pratts vs. Monash vs.** RIT vs. IUPUI

**[Anonymous]**

Hi, if you don't mind can you look at the course work of Information Experience Design Program at Pratt Institute. I liked the course overall.  
But can't really connect to any of the current students as the course started just a year ago.  
Can you please look into the course work and give your view regarding the course.  
It would be really helpful.  
Below is the link that mentions the course details.  
[https://www.pratt.edu/academics/information/degrees/information-experience-design-ms/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pratt.edu%2Facademics%2Finformation%2Fdegrees%2Finformation-experience-design-ms%2F&h=ATPgmOksffgQCrZjA0lz40uk8CCo_0F_S6yWquhWJl2DLpjqwoNYOF7vWKDjB_AfBxf_DsN9kSxjdLY4YZZMQ2wcvnDqYESZvhplaAGsZQUmYWGkohttmQtNYoB_FNMgOhWBdUZGh_Rx8g)  
Also I would like to mention that the i20 amount is 73k and I have recieved a 6k scholarship yearly. Tuition fee is 43k.So will it worth to go for a course which is just a year old.  
Other option that I have right now is Monash University in Australia for MDes in Interaction Design.  
Thank You.

May 22nd, 2:10am

**[Adithya]**

Hey, sorry I did not realize I got this message earlier it went to my others box are you still looking for an answer.

**[Anonymous]**

Hi. It's OK. Yes, I am looking for an answer.

May 22nd, 4:39am

**[Anonymous]**

Basically, I am confused between Monash and Pratt

**[Anonymous]**

I just have 2 days to make the decision. It would be great of you could provide your view. Thanks.

May 22nd, 9:24am

**[Adithya]**

Here is my detailed feedback. For your convenience in have put them as points. Each one talks about a perspective you should take into consideration.

A note - I don't have previous experience with these universities.

1. Country in which the university is in - You need to keep this in mind while selecting the university. USA is currently a hotspot for UX and interaction design. The awareness is just spreading to other countries including India. I am not sure how the situation is in Australia but I can guess it is behind US in those jobs. Having said that, U.S. H1b situation is getting tighter whereas I think in Australia it is better already in that category.

2. Course structure and objective - I feel both the courses are geared towards industry, so you should not have problem there. However, the course at Monash is starting this year. You will likely be the first batch. Another point is that it touches art side of Design in a more rigorous fashion than the Pratt's course. So, that is something to keep in mind. Pratts is a stem degree which allows you to take OPT use. However, I am not sure where the MDesign degree comes in place in australia. You need to figure that out. Generally, design courses are not stem degrees/M.S. and are treated differently. The placement of course is different in both the universities, so it will be treated differently.

3. Fees - If your risk apettite is low or you are struggling to get money together, I would suggest Monash if it is cheaper. Pratt's is in NY. That will make your life tough! THere will be lot of travel, conjusted living to meet the days.

4. Job opportunities/career fairs - You need support from the universities to get job or you are on your own in that matter. NY is an excellent place to be in for UX jobs. There are tons of meetups, possible networking. I will be there from august, so I know. You need to figure out if there will be college career fairs in this aspect. An effective way to figure this out is reach out to their email adress and frankly ask each college.

5. Lastly look at the professors. With the brief look, I feel profs at MADA have more experience. Just see each work of professor. It will be also useful to reach out to them once you select the univer for funding. As a general information i found Monash to have overall better ranking than Pratt. If I were you, I would have eliminated Pratt. What happened to RIT? Did you talk to Pinaj (Senior at RIT, in the FB group) about possible scholarships?

May 23rd, 11:59pm

**[Anonymous]**

Thank you so much for your review. It means a lot. Yes, I spoke to Pinaj. She suggested that you can go for Co-op so that the last semester fees can be taken care of. I already had an 8k scholarship for the first year. I think they consider you for the second year according to your performance. Still the Tuition fees was 50k with scholarship. Sorry i20 amount-50k. She said that it would easy to find on an campus job which would take care of living expenses.

May 24th, 7:57am

**[Adithya]**

I would suggest ditching Pratt's and thinking between RIT and Monash. I am pretty confident that u will be able to manage living expenses with part time in Australia as well.

**[Anonymous]**

Actually, I already rejected RIT. Yes In Australia I think I will manage the expenses

Many part time opportunities. I have even paid the fees for Monash I was so sure

But later when I recieved an Admit from Pratt I got confused. Many because of the job opportunities in US for UX and Pratt being the in the top 5 for design.

May 24th, 10:47pm

**[Adithya]**

Where did u see it being top 5 for design

May 25th, 12:36am

**[Anonymous]**

QS ranking for art and design

[https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2016/art-design](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.topuniversities.com%2Funiversity-rankings%2Funiversity-subject-rankings%2F2016%2Fart-design&h=ATPgmOksffgQCrZjA0lz40uk8CCo_0F_S6yWquhWJl2DLpjqwoNYOF7vWKDjB_AfBxf_DsN9kSxjdLY4YZZMQ2wcvnDqYESZvhplaAGsZQUmYWGkohttmQtNYoB_FNMgOhWBdUZGh_Rx8g)

[https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2017/art-design](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.topuniversities.com%2Funiversity-rankings%2Funiversity-subject-rankings%2F2017%2Fart-design&h=ATPgmOksffgQCrZjA0lz40uk8CCo_0F_S6yWquhWJl2DLpjqwoNYOF7vWKDjB_AfBxf_DsN9kSxjdLY4YZZMQ2wcvnDqYESZvhplaAGsZQUmYWGkohttmQtNYoB_FNMgOhWBdUZGh_Rx8g)

Sorry This one is 2017

May 25th, 9:53am

**[Adithya]**

Oh! I knew Rhode island but not this. Looks like its ranked pretty good for design. However, make sure the program is good as well. Because this is usually for the whole design school which has multiple programs. Having said that, rankings give pretty good vibe. U need to keep in mind that it is in NY though. Do let me know what u choose finally.

**[Anonymous]**

That's the problem Can't find any current student for this course. Yes I will let you know. Also, I had received a mail from a professor at Iowa State. He asked me to go through his research work and let him know whether I am interested and would like to connect.

May 26th, 1:04am

**[Adithya]**

I would tend to keep away from Iowa.

for many reasons.

**[Anonymous]**

Oh Ok. Also, decision from IUPUI is pending.

**[Anonymous]**

Also, if you don't mind can you go through the work of current students at Monash. I think they are not only related to websites/ Apps. What's your opinion?  
Monash Graduate students works:   
[http://www.artdes.monash.edu.au/gradshow2016/#!/design/design-masters](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artdes.monash.edu.au%2Fgradshow2016%2F%23%21%2Fdesign%2Fdesign-masters&h=ATPgmOksffgQCrZjA0lz40uk8CCo_0F_S6yWquhWJl2DLpjqwoNYOF7vWKDjB_AfBxf_DsN9kSxjdLY4YZZMQ2wcvnDqYESZvhplaAGsZQUmYWGkohttmQtNYoB_FNMgOhWBdUZGh_Rx8g)

**[Adithya]**

I think you should see what your focus is. Monash's students have done interaction design/ app project. So I think it should not be a problem. If i were you, my concern would be job.

Sorry for the late reply. I will keep IUPUI low. below RIT definitely. NID is better than RIT and IUPUI frankly.

**[Anonymous]**

Haha I first preference was always NID. NID and IIT IDC.

**[Adithya]**

Cool. If i were in your place, I would keep Monash and RIT up there. I dont know where else you got through and see how is job prospects in Australia if you like what you do, frankly you will grow anywhere in the world and create opportunities

**[Anonymous]**

I agree with you completely. I know that the job prospects in Australia are not as good as US. That's the reason I was looking at US. But my risk appetite is quite low. Even RIT was going to 45 lakhs tuition fee.

**[Adithya]**

But sometimes it need not be to get a good job for the reason mentioned above, Australia might be better for you, not in general case but for your case. That is the reason, I try to refrain from giving a suggestion. As there is no right thing to do.

**[Anonymous]**

Yes, even I am having the same thought. Yes, I know. There is no right and wrong. It also depends what you make out of the opportunity.

**[Adithya]**

I had similar confusion. I will tell you what i did. I opened excel. I wrote down all the college names. I wrote each category in column. Gave a score to each category and multiplied it with the priority. The final score is the one I went with. It removes emotion out of the way

**[Anonymous]**

Haha. Nice Idea

**[Adithya]**

so ya best of luck.do let me know what you take, eventually

**[Anonymous]**

Yes, I will surely. Thank you so much

May 29th, 3:12am

**[Anonymous]**

Hi. I have decided Monash. I just now recieved an admit from IUPUI

**[Adithya]**

well. I would think twice before considering it

**[Anonymous]**

Oh ok Because of the coursework?

**[Adithya]**

No because of the prospects. It is not a great school for the money you pay. Do you have scholarship? then it is a different thing.

**[Anonymous]**

Yes 6k annually. Also, 4k part time

**[Adithya]**

will that make difference?

**[Anonymous]**

And 1k conference. i20 is 32k. Marginaly, but not that much for sure

Jun 1st, 3:19am

**[Adithya]**

Dont include conference amount. 12k is good amount. I would suggest seeing your economic flexibility and take risk. Let me know if you need help in certain aspect for making decision

**[Anonymous]**

Yes i will look into the details regarding IUPUI I will ask few about their experience who are currently pursuing the course. Will let you know if I need any help.

Jun 1st, 2:53pm

**[Anonymous]**

Hi, I figured out that both the courses have equal cost. Also not a big difference between cost of living but I think IUPUI is still cheaper than Melbourne. So basically I think the coursework and job opportunities is the only basis I can compare on. I find the coursework of Monash more interesting and diverse as compared to IUPUI. I think Monash's and IUB(Dream University) coursework is something I was looking for when I thought of pursuing the HCI/UX course. I understand from the IUPUI coursework which I think focuses on Design and heavily on research.Going through myriads of research papers and understanding how they solved an existing problem. Whereas coursework in Monash is somewhat similar to IDM Program by NYU where your learning heavily depends on the type of projects you choose.So every person has a different learning experience.This could act as a pro or a con.No dedicated coursework. Each year it keeps on changing according to the needs of the students.This course focuses more on Design Process and thinking out of the box. So coursework I think I like Monash over IUPUI.Still its a risk haha. Obviously when it comes to opportunities US is great.Books and blogs I have read are from designers based in Companies that work in space of design thinking and HCD is based in US. Majority of product design and development takes place in US. I have heard from students in US that due to Trump internship opportunities have reduced. Australia PR has its own set of problems. So my question is finally (haha) what should I consider. My preference of course or on the basis of opportunities. Note- I may be not completely right as I have self analysed and researched through current students. Thanks.

Jun 1st, 8:04pm

**[Adithya]**

I think what you point is pretty right. I am not aware of opportunities is Australia. What did current students say? How are UX opportunities? How much does university help in getting jobs

and how much effort do you have to put to get internship and jobs?

**[Anonymous]**

I couldn't get to know much about job opportunities in Australia.The current student said that there are jobs available in the field of UX. She added that internships are available only in the last break before graduation.Her seniors were mostly Chinese and headed back to their country after completing the course(personal preference).She was not much aware about the job senario as she just completed her first year. There are few UX conferences and meetups that do take place annually/monthly.The content of UX Australia was very interesting. No need to travel for conferences as most of them take place in Melbourne.Most of the jobs are in Melbourne and Sydney. When I go through LinkedIn and seek(job portal) I do see jobs in UX. However I am interested only in a few of them. So basically I don't have much knowledge of jobs in Australia. Mixed comments when it comes to PR problem​. Some face problems some don't. People say that it entirely depends on us. As in how much effort we take to get a job. Also every person has a different level of bandwidth wrt job hunting. Few give up on 50 application while for others others consider it as a start. So basically jobs are there in Australia. They can't be compared to jobs in US but it's not like there are no opportunities. Few job roles are very interestesting as well. To be honest I know about UX because of products from IDEO as well as D school at Harvard. So a little attracted towards US haha.

**[Adithya]**

it makes sense. I guess you have now good awareness about both. The last element it boils down to is element of risk and leap of faith. Thats what i did. Just go with what your heart says

Both are more or less same.

**[Anonymous]**

I am still confused. Has a bend towards Monash? But still not sure completely

Jun 3rd, 2:45pm

**[Adithya]**

What keeping you confused?

**[Anonymous]**

Better Job roles in US I suppose.

**[Adithya]**

how do you feel about taking the US option?

**[Anonymous]**

I thought a lot about it. I don't like the coursework of IUPUI.

**[Adithya]**

hmm tough choice. But here is the thing about coursework. I think you can really learn UX on your own there are a lot of resources out there. But job, you need a good market. How are people coming out from IUPUI doing in terms of securing job? That would be the question you need to answer.

**[Anonymous]**

You are right. I think I need to ask more people. Thanks

**[Adithya]**

no problem