

The Department of Computer Science

Anca Serbanescu-Oasa

Anca had a BSc in Physics and a PhD in Materials Technology before she decided to come to The University of Auckland and accept the challenge that Computer Science had to offer. She did a Graduate Diploma in 2001.

“The degree has taught me that every day comes with new challenges, that even though there are problems that you have not encountered before, you can and will solve them. I still remember those assignments that seemed impossible initially, but in the end I would manage to find the right solution. And I can also remember how fantastic it felt to solve some of those problems - it felt like the sun started shining after a storm! The staff at the University were most helpful, and I made the most of my time there.

It is important for anyone, when choosing a degree, to look beyond their university studies. While Comp Sci is not an easy degree, it offers you skills that are in demand at any time (even during recession times!), and the work itself can be very rewarding.

Now I work at Fronde Systems Group as a consultant (senior developer) in Wellington. Fronde is a professional services company and we work on a variety of projects, for many well-known businesses in NZ, as well as government agencies. Our work impacts the lives of many, many people!

Sometimes I design the system or parts of it, and write the appropriate documentation. I also review the design documents written by others. I still write code most of the time, and of course unit tests, and carry out code reviews and functional testing before delivering my work - all those good things learnt at the university. I often prepare system release documentation, which can be quite complex. Communication is very important, especially because sometimes I am part of a large team. Even more so because often the systems we build have to integrate with other partner systems, so good communication cannot be over emphasised.

My work is never boring, it is actually challenging most of the time. I really learn something new every day. I meet and work with very clever, fantastic people, and this brings up the best in anyone. I work very hard, but the results are always rewarding.”

