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Year 2004, when I applied for my Higher Studies in RMIT, I was confident about the quality of the education that I will receive. Since then, I have seen that things have changed.

There have been times where RMIT education system has failed to deliver the real industrial teaching.

Aerospace Engineering is one of the most specialised fields where in addition to theory, real industrial knowledge is vital, without which getting a job in the field becomes impossible.

RMIT was known for its Aerospace teachings and stood 37<sup>th</sup> in the world according to 1997 stats; since then the quality has declined.

We pay about \$ 22,500 per annum which sums up to about \$ 90,000 for the full course. It takes about 4 years in addition to 1 year of industrial experience; together it comes up to 5 years of advance studies.

For \$ 90,000, we courses which gets cancelled, we get less contacts hours and we get lectures which aren't qualified themselves to teach. For example: A course was designed for the fourth year students which required about 8 hrs of lecture and tutor time. But, in the process that got decreased to about 6 hrs and now the same course is taught in about 5 hrs.

Students have lost upto 3 hrs of study time. Situation gets bitterer when there is no tutor to provide students with real industrial knowledge. So, a course initially designed with 8 hrs of face to face contact with the students including lecture and tutor time has now gone down to about 5 hrs without any tutor.

Now, this subject is a core one, the lecture him selves has complained to the board asking them to provide funding for the tutor. According to him, this course requires more than 8 hrs of study time.

Since this has taken place, the current and the future graduates will be going through so much of stress that this might result in shortage of qualified engineers. On raising this issue, it's been said that we are short of funding and we are working towards it. However nothing has changed. Quality of the course is decreasing and RMIT is still working on it.

Another example: A course which would help students to understand the mechanical side of the Aerospace Industry i.e., how the systems work in an aircraft and the basic theory behind it; was to be delivered by a professional who knows what he is teaching and is qualified to teach. However this was not the case, we received a lecture who does not know the systems himself and at the same time he is undergoing a teaching course in RMIT.

Many students failed and some just pass on the border line. When we raised this issue with the school they approved to give failed students another chance and another lecture, and the course which will run for about 4 weeks.

Now after seeing this and going through it, I don't think RMIT even deserves to continue running this course because all they will teach is something which is irrelevant to the real and the professional industry of Aerospace. Their teaching standards have gone down. The lectures most of them who are not even Aerospace Engineers are teaching this highly specialised course. The school is run by someone who doesn't even have an Aerospace Background. The course are been run by lectures who are good only in research and not the real industry.

Right now I am working in my field and the things that I have to learn now are more practical. Where as what I learnt in the university is absolutely irrelevant to the industry.

Former Managing Director of one of the most leading companies in Aerospace Technology said, "When you get out in the real world please do not bring your learnt theories and thinking of the university as they are irrelevant to the real problem. What you learn in university is not counted and is not considered in real practical world of Aerospace."

If people from the industry are saying that we should not bring along our university taught methods then the future of the current and the future graduates a big question mark.

If this is what we get for \$90,000 then I would ask other student to reconsider their choice of university and the country.