Name: Alban Ledig
University you are from: Ensip Poitiers
Dates you were in Australia: 15 June 2011 to 6 September 2011

1) Background……

In France I studied at classe préparatoire aux grandes écoles and then did 2 years at ENSIP Poitiers specializing in water treatment.

2) Choosing UNSW Water Research Centre……..

UNSW was a reputable university and the Water Research Centre (WRC) linked to the subject of my studies. Also I chose Australia as it is an attractive country, and Sydney the main city economically speaking.

3) Research Interests……

While at the WRC, I worked on air monitoring, establishing a method to detect PAH from air, considering different sizes of particles. My studies are based mainly on water treatment and a little part of air treatment, so basically my future will be on one of these two branches.

4) Living in Sydney…..

I discovered a new culture (people are different from France, most “friendly” I will say), travelling around the city (Blue Mountains, Port Stephens, some walks, and the famous place in Sydney).

5) After doing my Practicum……

I will return in France to complete my degree, then finding a job as an engineer in water treatment. Why not working in a foreign country?

6) My best experience while at UNSW WRC….  

People are really friendly and available, when you ask a question they usually take their time to answer it, sometimes even with a certain pleasure.

7) My worst experience while at UNSW WRC ....

Surely the wasted time, waiting for materials (1 month for the impactor, 3 weeks for filters, and 2 weeks to find a place to collect samples)

8) If I had known then what I know now, I would have....

I would have put more pressure on my supervisor to get materials sooner (the problem is : nothing was really “prepared” when I arrived, so we lost a lot of time...).

9) The greatest lesson during my Practicum has been....

Learning to work “on my own”

10) If I could do it again I ......

I would do it differently, as I said on 9)

11) My greatest achievement....

Finally we were able to detect some pah the last days of my internship; it’s in this way an achievement.