

## M.Sc IPD PARTICIPANT PROFILE

**Name, Surname & Title**

**Samantha Runco**



**Degree(s)**

B.Mech.Eng.(Hons) – University of Malta (1998)  
Currently undertaking M.Sc. Integrated Product Development –  
University of Malta (course to end 2008)

**Biography**

Commenced my engineering career as a Process Engineer with ST Microelectronics (Malta) Ltd. During the last two years, I was responsible for the setting up and subsequently running of a new product line, together with responsibility for the teams of operators and technicians working on the line.

Moved on to Carlo Gavazzi Ltd. as an R&D Project Leader. The post focused on the development and design of the mechanical portion of the product and involved familiarisation with materials, injection moulding and stamping tools and design methodologies.

Currently employed as the Business Technology Network Manager, within Malta Enterprise. The position involves the setup and running of the network, whose main aims are enhancing technology transfer between local entities, and providing access to finance for technological start ups and companies seeking to expand.

**Why an M.Sc in IPD ?**

Over the last few years Malta has been passing through the fate of other European countries which saw many of their well established manufacturing firms leave their sites. This obviously following the lower cost and increasingly higher quality levels of Far Eastern countries. This trend is leading us to strengthen the areas which result in more value added activities, requiring us to be more creative in our jobs and increase our knowledge in diverse areas.

The Integrated Product Development course aims to give the student the basic techniques required to move our manufacturing firms into the era of product development. The

modules presented have exposed us to advances in technology such as Rapid Prototyping and Nano Technology, which could be the future of Maltese Industry. At worst it has made us stop and think of what is going on around us and how we should adapt.

The mix of engineering and financial / managerial topics exposes the student to the different disciplines required to better understand the underlying context of the workplace, while still remaining true to our original engineering oriented selection.

Meeting with engineers coming from a spread of different companies has led us to sometimes discuss our common problems and learn from others' practices. I find that this is an invaluable part of the learning experience.