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**UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**  
**EASING THE WAY**  
 FOOD TECHNOLOGY CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our growing and ageing population needs more innovative young scientists working in health and food science, says Vaughan Gough, UQ graduate and research and development laboratory manager at specialist food manufacturer Flavour Creations as part of an internship program at UQ, and his team now creates food and drink products for those with dysphagia – a common condition, especially in the elderly, that makes it difficult to swallow.

Vaughan's Honours year helped to prepare him for the management role he now holds. "It was great for self-motivation and project management skills."

Food technology students at UQ learn about the physics, biology and chemistry of food. This grounding now helps Vaughan to adjust ingredients like the thickeners and flavouring in products until they are just right. "There's a lot of expertise and technology that goes into making the products," he says. "It's a great feeling to know that what I do improves people's quality of life."

– Chereise Sonkkila

**TO GET THERE:** Bachelor of Food Technology (Hons), The University of Queensland

**FEDERATION UNIVERSITY OF AUSTRALIA**  
**FREE-RANGE CAREER**  
 BECOME AN ANIMAL HEALTH EXPERT AND CHANGE THE WORLD

Australia is one of the most enthusiastic meat-eating countries in the world so a lot of healthy livestock is needed to satisfy demand. "Human health is directly tied to animal health," says Federation University Australia Associate Professor David Piedralita.

One of the biggest issues facing livestock is infectious disease. Worm parasites, for example, are a big problem in Australia because the worms have become resistant to de-worming drugs. But a lot can be learned from countries that haven't been able to afford de-worming drugs and have instead bred animals that are naturally resistant to worm parasites.

David and his team have crossed Australian merino sheep with a new generation of Indonesian thin tail sheep that have resistance to flatworms, and they're conducting genetic testing to better understand the resistance. David says the research will help farmers to breed sheep that are healthy and resistant to parasites.

He says the learning environment at Fed Uni is great because it's a regional university – the class sizes are small and students get to work closely with local farmers. "We take students out to different farm settings, comparing free-range and intensive farming methods."

And veterinary and wildlife science offers a lot of career opportunities, says David. "Animal quarantine, disease surveillance and wild animal research are just a few."

– Chereise Sonkkila

**TO GET THERE:** Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Sciences, Federation University Australia

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