

# Sounds like a bright future

Graduates of a new course will be able to change the way we hear the world, writes **Carla Grossetti**.

**T**he first Australian degree to focus on the intersection between sound, music and design combines "artistic and creative practice with thorough technical understanding".

Course director Professor Kirsty Beilharz says the new bachelor of sound and music design, at the University of Technology, Sydney, is part of a trend towards self-directed learning and multidisciplinary degrees that can be seen emerging in major universities around the world.

"I am so excited that this course offers a confluence of technologies, creativity and tech-savvy pursuits that up until now had to be studied separately and yet intersect visibly in contemporary life," Beilharz says. "Visual fields are much more mature in education and it is time to give sound the attention it deserves and afford music a truly modern outlook," she says.

The degree offers sound and music studies beyond the constraints of traditional audio engineering and composition. It will also see integration and collaborations between the arts and design faculties at UTS.

Beilharz says one of UTS's strengths is the flexibility it offers students.

She acknowledges that some of the specific hardware and software students master in one

'Students [can] specialise and foster their individual interests,' Professor Kirsty Beilharz

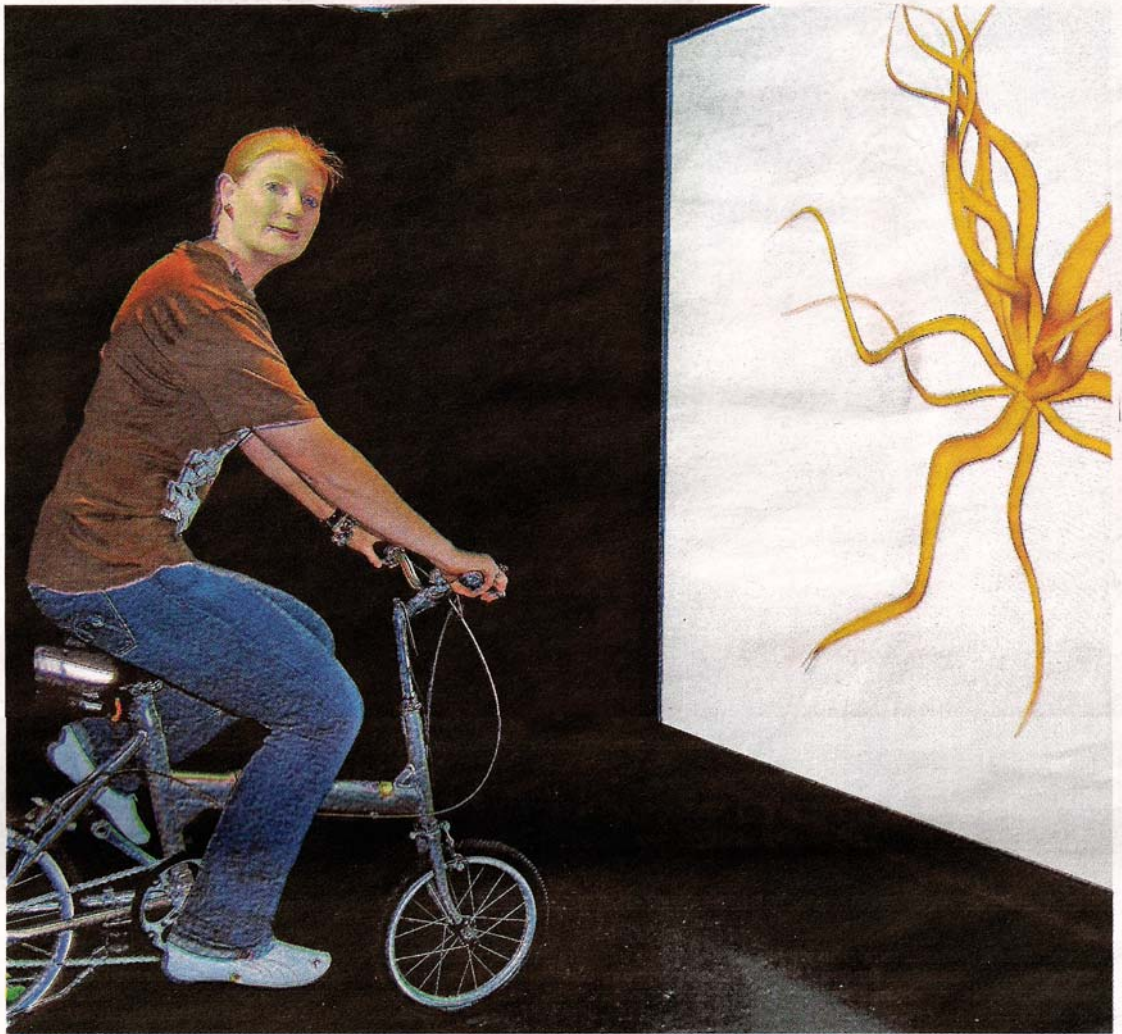
studio may soon grow obsolete but she says the strategies for understanding interaction, presenting media, mediating life experiences through devices, environments and garments are fundamental ideas that can be applied to different technological situations.

"Industry is looking for graduates who are independent thinkers, adaptable, inventive and who can transport their ideas and knowledge as day-to-day implementation evolves," Beilharz says. "The studio-based subjects and professional industry collaborations are highly flexible, allowing students to specialise and foster their individual interests."

Beilharz says because the places and ways in which we use media are rapidly transforming, there are now new opportunities for music and sound in games, entertainment, public spaces, museums, art galleries and larger public and urban spaces.

She says the bachelor of sound and music design will nurture expression through all kinds of media, genres and styles.

"Students will be able to express their creativity in pop or rock or through world music and through software-generated



Ride on ... a bicycle fitted with sensors being used to interact with audiovisual material.

music as well as acoustic music," she says. Beilharz also believes course graduates will have abilities that traverse a number of disciplines (such as office, health and creative industries) and says employment opportunities will exist in media, communication and design domains and include roles as varied as interactive media artists, computer musicians, electronic

music composers, product sound designers and audio designers for live performances.

One of the co-founders of the bachelor of sound and music design is Associate Professor Bert Bongers. Bongers believes the graduates from this course will "have the knowledge to change the way the world sounds around us".

"If you consider all those horrible beeps

and bleeps that all the various devices around us make, you may wonder why the vocabulary of technology hasn't evolved further. The graduates from our course will be creating devices that communicate with more elaborate and informative and engaging sounds," he says.

The three-year degree is offered fulltime at the UTS city campus from next year.