

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

**Name:** Ellen Clarkstone  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)  
**Year of degree:** 2nd (2010)  
**Campus:** Werrington South  
**High School:** St Columba's High School  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 2007



**Is the degree or course structure what you expected?**

Yes and more. My course has provided me with the fundamentals needed for design as well as many other great avenues to explore in my future career.

**How is university different from school?**

University is very different from School. University provides students with a sense of independence and helps to build their characters for when they begin their own careers.

**How did high school help you in preparing for university?**

My school helped me by holding many career presentations and took me to career expos at UWS. It also provided help with my UAC application and I was able to get relevant information from my careers advisor.

**What is the most interesting thing you've done at university this year?**

This semester I was able to choose a children's book and illustrate the entire book to my own design. This allowed me to explore different illustrative techniques and mediums and to use them in any way I chose to illustrate the book.

**What are some of your achievements since you started university?**

Mastering the Adobe Suite programs. Creating t-shirts and posters for friends and families which has also helped to refine my skills.

**Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?**

After starting the course I found out how broad it actually was, which has led to my career aspirations constantly changing between graphic design, advertising, teaching and photography.

**What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?**

Don't be shy when asking for information about a course. Ask about everything you want to know including: what the course offers, the work you will be doing in the course, its accreditation, where it can take you (careers) and fees involved.

**Why did you choose to study at UWS?**

Mostly for its location. It's much easier to travel for half an hour to Penrith than to the city for an hour and a half each way.

# Course Information



## Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)

**Where is it held (campus)?**

**Penrith (Werrington South)**

**How long is it?**

**4 years full time**

**Career opportunities:**

**Graphic designer, photographer, illustrator, art director, design journalist, information designer, interactive multimedia designer, web designer, design educator, animator, television or video designer.**

**Subjects include:**

**Design management, the history and theory of visual communication design, typography, advertising, the web and visual literacy, through a range of studio and project work. Study will include individual and team-based project work, extensive use of advanced computer technologies, concept development studio practice, and a significant opportunity to engage with real community and industry projects.**

**ATAR (2010)**

**Penrith 64.05**

**Additional information:**

**Graduates are eligible for membership of the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) and the Australian Graphic Design Association (AGDA).**

**During the fourth year, students participate in team-based projects with students from other programs including marketers, branding experts, organisational communicators and production specialists.**

**Students interested in becoming a secondary teacher can study the Bachelor of Design Studies (three-year exit point), followed by the UWS secondary teacher education course.**

**For more information:**

**Visit the UWS website course information at <http://future.uws.edu.au/>**