

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Tom Venables
Degree: Bachelor of Natural Science - Agriculture
Year of degree: 3rd (2010)
Campus: Hawkesbury
High School: Arndell Anglican College, Oakville
Completed Year 12 in: 2005



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

In some ways it was, with the practical content of the course, but in other instances the units covered were different from what I expected and challenging.

How is university different from school?

University offers a more independent learning experience. The onus of learning is left up to the individual. Academics at university are not like teachers at school – they won't hound you to complete the work.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

Aside from teaching me academic skills such as report writing or forming an argument, school nurtured an academic maturity, mindset and understanding of the importance of studies.

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

Engaging with a client in industry and developing and completing a research project for the benefit of the client.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I was placed on the Dean's Honours List in 2009 and won the Henry Furner Prize in 2010.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

I was unsure about what I specifically wanted to achieve at the beginning of the degree, but now I'm nearing the end of my studies, numerous opportunities have arisen in terms of potential career paths.

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

Develop your own areas of interest. Use your Careers Advisor to help you develop those areas and discover how best to pursue them after you leave school. Identify the institutions with degree programs in those areas.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS Hawkesbury was the closest institution that offered a degree in my area of interest.

Course Information



Bachelor of Natural Science - Agriculture

Where is it held (campus)?

Hawkesbury

How long is it?

3 years full time

Career opportunities:

Agricultural consultancy, advisory services, animal health and welfare, agricultural marketing, rural merchandising, agronomy, secondary teaching (requires additional study), rural enterprise management, livestock industries and catchment management.

Studies:

Prepare graduates for an extensive range of employment opportunities, with specialised knowledge and understanding of the balance between agriculture, landscape ecology, and business activities.

ATAR (2010)

69.00

Additional information:

Agriculture is an exciting, inter-disciplinary area that is essential to feeding the growing world population. It involves the application of science and business skills to the management of over half of Australia's land for the production of food, feed, fibre and other goods by the systematic growing/harvesting/distribution of plants, animals and other life forms. It contributes to fundamental aspects of urban development and rural prosperity: sustainable resource usage, food security, social stability, and environmental protection for this and future generations.

For more information:

Visit <http://future.uws.edu.au/>