

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Shannon Said

Degree: Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Year of degree: 4th (2011)

Campus: Kingswood/Werrington South

High School: Greystanes High School

Completed Year 12 in: 2007

Scholarships held: 2008 Vice Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

This course has exceeded my expectations completely and has broadened my thoughts of what music is. I have learned about professional performance and composition. The chance to produce my own songs in the top quality recording studios has been a massive learning curve.

How is university different from school?

University gives you the chance to learn about something you really love, with teachers that are professionals. You have to work hard and plan ahead a lot more than at school, but it can give you amazing opportunities to work in a field you are passionate about.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

I had a great group of teachers who supported my dreams. The best thing I learned from school was how to study most effectively. Listen to your teachers when they say to start studying early! It will help you so much when you arrive at uni, knowing how you learn best.

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

This year I am working with musicians from Campbelltown to create an album that blends Maori music and my own songwriting style. This is a massive learning curve and a lot of fun!

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

My band and I performed as part of the Final Session 2010, a performance event in Penrith. One of my original songs, *Beauty for Ashes*, was featured on the CD release. I have also composed songs for the UWS choir which have been performed at the uni.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

I am much more open to the broad spectrum of jobs that are available through doing Music at UWS. The course is really diverse, meaning you can study musicology, sound production, performance and composition. Drawing on what I've learnt at UWS I feel confident to compose my own songs, do my own arrangements and productions and perform them to a live audience.

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

Make sure you do something you love. You'll have times when you love your study and other times where you are so swamped with work you wonder why you're at uni. Being passionate about your area of study will get you through the tough times!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

I love the fact that UWS actively seeks to contribute to the Greater Western Sydney community. Our area is a powerhouse of creativity and energy - what better place to forge innovative, fresh ideas that can benefit our society! The scholarship opportunities through the Aspire program have also given me skills I would otherwise not have.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

I was told on my first day 'No one plans to fail but you can fail to plan'. This is so true! Preparation is vital. Hard work means far more at uni than natural intelligence. The harder you work, the more you know, and the more opportunities you'll have. You only get out what you put in! Nutri Grain got it right!

Course Information



Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Where is it held (campus)?

Penrith (Werrington South and Kingswood)

How long is it?

4 years full time

Career opportunities:

Roles in performance, teaching, artistic direction, composition, sound design, audio engineering, multimedia, arts administration, concert management, community music or as a music journalist and critic.

Subjects include:

Music History, Basic Composition, Craft and Theory, Sound Synthesis and the Sound Environment, Cultural Paradigms and Music, Arranging Music, Music in Theory and Practice, Music and Analysis, Music and Philosophy as well as sub-majors and elective units.

ATAR (2011)

N/A

Additional information:

Applicants to the course will be selected on an interview/audition in which personal aptitude, professional experience and educational qualifications are taken into consideration. After applying to UAC you are required to book yourself in for an interview/audition and download a questionnaire at the University's online audition booking system. At your audition you will be asked to perform from two contrasting pieces of music.

The Bachelor of Music degree also qualifies students to undertake a Masters of Teaching (Secondary).

For more information:

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