

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Alicia Parata

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)/Master of Teaching (Primary)

Year of degree: 3rd year of BA completed in 2009, 1st year of Master of Teaching (2010)

Campus: Penrith (BA) and Bankstown (MTeach)

High School: Penrith Anglican College

Completed Year 12 in: 2006

Scholarships held:

Penrith City Council Leadership Scholarship (2007 – 2009)

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

Yes, but I was surprised at the variety of the course material. In Arts, I learnt about history, literature, society and culture, media and the arts, psychology and social science all within the one degree. In the Master of Teaching, this knowledge was built upon and made more relevant to primary teaching.

How is university different from school?

UWS lets you make your own timetable to suit your lifestyle, so it's very flexible. There is no 9.00 – 3.00 schedule. You might only attend classes 2 – 3 days a week. You are responsible for yourself and your own learning and it's up to you to stay on top of classwork and assessments as lecturers expect you to keep up.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

Attending Careers Days and Markets was a great opportunity to see university campuses and meet university staff and students. My Careers Advisor also helped me find information about universities and the courses they offered.

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

As part of the Master of Teaching I've had the opportunity to visit local agencies and schools and mentor a few students at different schools.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

Being nominated for the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

Although I considered the idea of continuing my study in Psychology (a great aspect of having an Arts degree is that there are so many post-graduate opportunities!) I have become more determined in my plans to become a teacher.

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

Pick a course that you like or that interests you – three years is a long time to spend if you don't enjoy the subject! Use your elective units to explore other fields – you never know how much they might interest you!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

The local campus was close to home and convenient. I thought I would get the most well-rounded Arts degree from UWS (with a wide range of units to choose from) and still get the opportunity to actively participate in the Western Sydney community.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

University may seem daunting at first because it is so different from high school, but in reality it is fun and enjoyable. You will learn so much, hear different opinions and get the chance to form your own.

Course Information



Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)/ **Master of Teaching (Primary)**

Where is it held (campus)?

**Penrith and Bankstown - Bachelor of Arts
(Psychology)
Bankstown – Master of Teaching (Primary)**

How long is it?

4 years full time*

Assumed knowledge:

Any two units of English

Career opportunities?

Areas relevant to the major studies completed include: psychology or research, human resources, vocational assessment, media and various psychology disciplines including educational, forensic, sport and counseling psychology, teaching.

Subjects include:

Brain and Behaviour, Cognitive Processes, Advanced Research Methods, Social Psychology, Human Behaviour, Behavioural Science, Developmental Psychology, Education Studies.

ATAR (2010)

**Penrith – 70.75
Bankstown – 70.25**

Additional information:

In general, the course develops your communication and personal skills, as well as your creativity, capacity for independent thought, adaptability to new situations and problem-solving skills. Your major will be in psychology, but you can choose your electives from many other degree programs taught across UWS.

***The Masters course is offered at the Bankstown campus and is available one year accelerated mode, one and a half years full time or up to three years part time.**

For more information:

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