

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Kate Thomson
Degree: Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Year of degree: 1st (2011)
Campus: Campbelltown
High School: Camden High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2009
Scholarships held: UWS Academic Excellence Scholarship



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

It is better than I expected! The degree focuses on both Western Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), examining the similarities and differences of both medical systems and how they complement each other. It's been great studying with people from other Health Science backgrounds and also studying the foundations and philosophies behind TCM.

How is university different from school?

University is very much about independent learning, and specialising in something you have a passion for. I love motivating myself to get all of my assignments completed on time and learning about different areas in much greater detail. University gives you more flexibility than school as it allows you to construct your timetable to fit with your other commitments.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

My teachers were very supportive and gave me the drive I needed to succeed in my HSC. They taught me the importance of doing all tasks to 100%, and in particular, helped me to develop study skills that I still use at university.

What is the most interesting thing you've done at university so far?

I learnt so many interesting things this year! I think the Wet Labs in Anatomy are very interesting - looking at brains, nerves and cells! I never thought I would have an opportunity like that! The lecturers are so knowledgeable and often use their personal experience to explain concepts to us; which makes me realise just how valuable everything is that I am studying.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I received 90% for my first two Anatomy online tests, which I was very pleased about! I was asked to participate in a forum with other second, third and fourth year students to speak about the UWS Traditional Chinese Medicine course to a panel of auditors - that was a great experience!

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

Definitely- before starting this degree, my heart was so set on becoming a practitioner straight out of university. Now I am thinking that I would like to do a PhD at UWS in TCM and research.

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

University study is an amazing opportunity to study something you feel passionate about. Focus on something that you have an interest in, which will motivate you to get the required work done and more! Choosing university studies was one of the best decisions that I have made. Keep your options open, and see where life at university can take you!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS was always my first choice - it is in my local area and the facilities are very modern. The teaching staff are extremely helpful and are experts in their fields. UWS is also one of only two university institutions that offer a degree in TCM; and the research, clinical and teaching facilities for the TCM program are of the highest standard.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

University life is what you make it. If you put in the hard work, you will be rewarded with the benefits!

Course Information



Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Where is it held (campus)?

Campbelltown

How long is it?

4 years full time

Recommended studies:

Biology

Career opportunities:

Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners are usually either self-employed in private practice or work as a member of a team in a clinic that offers a range of therapies. They practice as acupuncturists and treating clients using Chinese herbal medications. Building a solid, broad understanding of biomedicine and various health science fields will give you a deeper understanding of Traditional Chinese Medicine, help you to work in interdisciplinary teams and centres, and assist you in advising clients on treatment options.

Subjects include:

Human Anatomy and Physiology, Culture, Diversity and Health, Professional Health Competencies, Cell Biology, Communication in Health, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Channels and Points, Foundations of Research and Evidence-based Practice, Acupuncture Techniques, Pharmacology, Chinese Internal Medicine Practice

ATAR (2011):

Campbelltown 75.00

Additional information:

The knowledge you can gain at UWS opens up other opportunities in product development, management and sales roles in pharmaceutical and herbal companies; and conducting medical research. Those in consultancy roles are now taking advantage of the Internet, to provide healthcare advice online.

For more information:

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