

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Matthew Withington
Degree: Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science)
Year of degree: 2008-2010/2011
Campus: Hawkesbury
High School: Macarthur Anglican School
Completed Year 12 in: 2007
Scholarships held: UWS Academic Excellence Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

Not entirely, there were a few surprises along the way and the freedom and choices available are impressive.

How is university different from school?

University is focused on you as an individual, supporting and aiding you in your interests, but it requires you to be an individual and have the self-motivation to work. It is definitely worth the effort and prepares you for your future.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

High school provided a very sound knowledge base to be built upon in my university life. Also, the learning skills developed in high school were very beneficial.

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

Using the complicated and specific machines in Forensic and Environmental Analysis and culturing and identifying bacterium in Microbiology. Studying forensic case files was also very interesting.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

Gaining a greater sense of where my future is headed and a sound knowledge base in my field. Having optimism and excitement for the future.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

Yes, many avenues and options that I had no previous knowledge of have been suggested. Although a course may appear very specific, the options during and after university are almost endless.

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

To definitely pursue university study. Although your options at school are limited and your personal interests may not be represented, they most certainly will be at university. University is all about providing you with the tools and means to pursue your interests and dreams.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS provided exactly what I needed to get me into the industry I have a passion for and provides a launch pad for my future. UWS also has many campuses all across western Sydney and I have had the pleasure of utilising a number of them.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

A common misconception is that university study is very expensive. UWS provides many programs and opportunities to help you prepare for your future, including the HECS-HELP program and a wide variety of scholarships.

Also UWS provides for everyone, not just the high achieving students. The university offers an incredible variety of courses to suit anybody interested in getting a degree and bettering their future.

Course Information

Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science)



Where is it held (campus)?

Hawkesbury Campus

How long is it?

Three years full time

Assumed knowledge:

At least two of biology, chemistry and mathematics

Career opportunities?

Australian Federal Police, State and Territory police services, Customs, Environmental Protection Authority, WorkCover, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, forensic researchers and academics, drug testers in human and animal sports, government health departments and analytical chemical laboratories.

Subjects include:

Digital Forensic Photography, Biology, Chemistry, Biometry, Forensic Science, Crime and Criminal Justice, Forensic Analysis of Physical Evidence, Molecular Biology, Forensic Archaeology, Toxicology.

UAI (2009)

Hawkesbury – 86.25

Additional information:

The wide skill base in this course means that graduates can also work in analytical chemistry and microbiology laboratories, quality control and assurance, biochemistry and molecular biology, scientific research, education and the chemical industry.

An honours option is available as an additional year for high-achieving students.

For more information:

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