

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

**Name:** Hannah Ainsworth  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery  
**Year of degree:** 3rd (2011)  
**Campus:** Campbelltown  
**High School:** St Columba's High School  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 2007



**Is the degree or course structure what you expected?**

It has exceeded my expectations! From the first year we are given lots of practical experience, and once we hit third year we are out and about in the hospitals and in the community. It really changes your perspective on your degree when you can see what you'll be doing in the future!

**How is university different from school?**

In a lot of ways the MBBS course still has a 'school' feel, with a cohort that you stick with, and lecturers who know your name. However, learning wise the onus is on you and how much work you are willing to put in! You realise you can't forget what you've learnt during the semester...it needs to be stored up and put into practice for when you enter the real world (a scary thought)!

**How did high school help you in preparing for university?**

It gave me the skills to learn independently and use my own initiative. It also taught me to seek out help when I need it - a balance that is crucial when studying at university. St Columba's taught me how to make the most of my education and use the resources on offer to reach my full potential.

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

This year has been hospital-based and so many experiences have blown me away (and reminded me why I love my degree)! One memory stands out – the first week of my first surgical rotation at Campbelltown Hospital. I was given the opportunity to scrub for surgery during an emergency case. Thought I'd just be watching but I got to assist in the procedure, even doing a couple of stitches to close up! I will never forget my first stitches, or that rotation...I learnt so much and got to put into practice what I'd learnt at university.

**What are some of your achievements since you started university?**

My achievements include being able to take a thorough patient history, perform necessary examinations, take blood and put in a cannula and catheter...things I never thought I'd actually be able to do! Now when I watch medical shows I can actually comment on them, guess the diagnosis or laugh at how wrong they are.

**Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?**

Definitely! One of the best things about medicine is the broad spectrum of opportunities and specialities available. Initially I was adamant I did NOT want to do surgery, however I now view it as a possibility. I'm sure as I cycle through future rotations I will change my mind again, but my core goals remain the same...to learn as much as I can and to gauge some insight into the lives of each of my patients.

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

University will be the best time of your life if you choose the course you're interested in! Motivation goes a long way, so if you love your course you are bound to succeed. Seek advice and feedback on different degrees and universities. Don't be disheartened if you don't get into the course you want the first time, there are many ways to get in! Take advantage of every opportunity given to you at university.

**Why did you choose to study at UWS?**

The day of my interview I saw Campbelltown campus for the first time and it was love at first sight! As the MBBS degree is only brand new (our first cohort will graduate at the end of 2011) there are multiple reasons why UWS stood out to me:

- 1) Having a brand new course meant we had a lot of resources available to us – we have been very spoilt
- 2) UWS is committed to servicing Greater Western Sydney, an area that has a lot of disadvantage. This is a very important aspect as it allows me to give back to my community
- 3) The lecturers, clinical tutors and doctors are beyond amazing! Being in a smaller hospital, the doctors actually know who we are and have the time and patience to share their experience...and as the patients aren't bombarded with countless students, they are very willing to let us learn from their stories.

# Course Information

## Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery



**Where is it held (campus)?**

**Campbelltown**

**How long is it?**

**5 years full time**

**Recommended studies:**

**Chemistry**

**Career opportunities:**

**Medical practice (either general or specialised), medical administration and medical research. The MBBS program is fully accredited by the Australian Medical Council. Graduates will be eligible for registration as a medical practitioner by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.**

**Subjects include:**

**As a first and second year student, you'll be set a problem each week, and the lectures, resources, clinical practice and research for that week will focus on the learning that this problem creates or poses. From third to fifth year, you'll rotate through clinical placements across the whole of Greater Western Sydney and rural NSW, ensuring the utmost competence and confidence in your future career.**

**Selection Criteria:**

**As well as submitting a UAC application, applicants must satisfy other selection criteria. Visit the School of Medicine website at [www.uws.edu.au/medicine](http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine) for more details.**

**Additional information:**

**You need to have the capabilities to perform all aspects of standard medical practice such as history taking, physical examination and routine medical and surgical procedures in order to meet the program requirements. The initial two years of study will be at UWS Campbelltown campus. Further study may require rotations in various rural and Sydney metropolitan settings incurring travel, accommodation and other expenses.**

**For more information:**

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