

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Joshua Borja
Degree: Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)
Year of degree: 3rd (2011)
Campus: Werrington South
High School: Penrith High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2008



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

Yes, with surprises along the way. There is a nice balance of theory and practical work, and a lot of team work which as a designer you have to get used to. We have been using industry-standard software from the beginning of the course.

How is university different from school?

It is much more flexible. Most importantly, it's all about you as an individual – choosing what to study and how much work you put into your studies. Did you do enough uni work to warrant a night out? It's like a taste of the outside world.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

My school taught me to follow what I want to do, but in the smartest and most logical way possible. It opened many doors for me. I don't think I would be pursuing what I am now without some of the opportunities that I was given at my school. The school also taught me how to balance my social life with school work and how to work well under pressure.

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

Creating a magazine from scratch in one semester. Going through all the paces; writing an article, figuring out which typeface to use for the body text and titles, taking photography of the class, choosing a front cover as a class. It was stressful but very rewarding - seeing a completed magazine that you have spent around 140+ hours on. I also helped plan the launch of the magazine, creating the theme and hoping that the 250+ guests enjoyed the launch.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

Other than the launch of the magazine, I have freelanced for theatre companies. Most recently, I have been credited for the graphic design in Blacktown City Community Theatre's production of Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

Yes. I quickly found out that photography wasn't my thing and now I have set my heart on typography. As a graphic designer, you need to be as multi-skilled as you can. As I learn new things my goals and aspirations with graphic design will continue to change.

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

Do what YOU want to do! As you will be studying for at least 3 years, it's a lot of time (and money) to be doing something that doesn't interest you. Have fun, have a social life, meet new people. Whatever you do will be beneficial. Keep pushing boundaries but be intelligent about how you push them.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

Foremost, it was because it was local and easy to get to. I couldn't see myself doing any university work on the train to and from another university.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

Friendships make university work a lot easier. Friends got me through the tough and stressful times of the magazine launch. Also, building a rapport with staff members and tutors can be beneficial; my friends and I were offered a freelance job because a tutor liked what we were doing, and we learnt a lot from that experience. Take opportunities as they come.

Course Information



Bachelor of Design **(Visual Communication)**

Where is it held (campus)?

Penrith (Werrington South)

How long is it?

4 years full time

Career opportunities:

Graphic designer, photographer, illustrator, art director, design journalist, information designer, interactive multimedia designer, web designer, design educator, animator, television or video designer

Subjects include:

Introduction to Typography, Image: Photomedia, Image Design: Illustration, 20th Century Design Histories, Web and Time Based Design, Typography for Print and Screen, Photomedia: Fashion and Identity, Professional Practice: Design Management, Reading the Contemporary, Communication Design Major Project, Communication Design Professional Brief

ATAR (2011)

65.05

Additional information:

This degree gives you with fundamental skills and knowledge in the exciting and constantly changing area of visual communication. Underpinned by a foundation of graphic design, the program delivers a mix of creative and professional design approaches encompassing typography, image graphics and graphic systems

You are required to complete an industry placement as a mandatory part of the program. During your fourth year, you'll participate in team-based projects with students from other programs including marketers, branding experts, organisational communicators and production specialists

For more information:

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