

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Nicole Clifford
Degree: Bachelor of Social Work
Year of degree: 2nd
Campus: Bankstown
High School: Penrith High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2007
Scholarships held: Academic Excellence



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

Yes, however, I was surprised at the level of hands-on experience I gained so early in the degree. In my first semester I completed 30 hours of observation at a community service agency and I've been completing practice-based exercises such as one-on-one interviewing from the outset of the degree.

How is university different from school?

There's more responsibility placed on the individual, a wider range of subjects to study and greater opportunities to study abroad. Travel time can also increase and it's important to utilise time management skills to ensure this shift doesn't disrupt your studies.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

The subjects I completed in years 11 and 12 assisted greatly in my course. For example, Community and Family Studies and Society and Culture introduced me to concepts which are explored in depth within my course. Learning proper referencing has also helped in accurately completing assessments and sustaining my desired grades.

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

This year I began learning Chinese. The language itself and the other students are extremely interesting and have added to my overall university experience. I believe being proficient in this language will assist me in a social work career.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I am very happy with my progress in the majority of my subjects. My grades have remained high enough to sustain my scholarship – which is difficult at times when juggling university, work and a social life.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

Not really. My goal is still to find a job within the child welfare sector.

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

Refine your time management skills and don't leave things to the last minute. Evidence of preparation and adequate references are extremely important in your assignments. Enjoy the social aspects of university and have fun!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

I chose to study at UWS because I thought the social work degree offered at Bankstown campus would provide me with the knowledge I needed to work in the field as a skilled practitioner. The assistance I was offered through the academic excellence scholarship also provided me with a great amount of support whilst I continue my studies at UWS.

Course Information

Bachelor of Social Work



Where is it held (campus)?

Bankstown

How long is it?

4 years full time

Recommended studies:

Any two units of English

Career opportunities:

Health and community services, hospitals, local community centres, advocacy organisations, government and non-government welfare agencies, community work and community development, research and social policy

Subjects include:

More than 1,000 hours of supervised full-time field placements. The course also introduces you to cutting edge social research and theoretical perspectives.

UAI (2009)

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Additional information:

If you are driven to help people deal with personal and social problems, either directly or by planning and carrying out programs that will benefit groups or communities, the UWS Social Work degree is the ideal program of study.

This degree is fully accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers. An honours program is available in fourth year to meritorious students.

For more information:

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