

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Gareth Downing

Degree: Bachelor of Economics/ Bachelor of Laws

Year of degree: 2nd (2011)

Campus: Parramatta

High School: St Mary's Cathedral College

Completed Year 12 in: 2009

Scholarships held: UWS Academic Excellence Scholarship and
Vice Chancellor's International Exchange Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

The course structure is about what I had expected, with a great deal of flexibility. In the context of the law degree, there is a standard structure with students being exposed to a wide variety of subjects before later choosing specific units of interest or specialising in a certain area of law e.g. advanced taxation law.

How is university different from school?

There is a greater focus on either one or two major areas of study, for myself Economics and Law. This is different to school where you undertake a variety of different subjects. Choosing something that you have a passion for makes university study both easier and enjoyable.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

School taught me a variety of skills, many involving writing, but the most important by far was time management. Doing multiple subjects, with a variety of tasks to complete within a given period improved my organisational skills greatly, which has been a major asset in university study. The HSIE faculty taught me essay writing, debating and presentation skills.

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

Going on the study exchange to Hong Kong. I've learned a great deal about other cultures and it's been an opportunity to get a greater understanding of my key program which focuses on the practicalities of international trade and finance.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

Joining, as a founding member, the UWS Mahjong Society as secretary, which was a great personal honour and being selected to be a representative of the university in the UWS exchange program.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

My career aspirations haven't changed greatly. However my studies have allowed me to recognise that I have a great passion for economics which should be my focus for any future career decisions.

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

Choose your courses based on what you are interested in and what you actually wish to study. Read through course descriptions and unit outlines, a tiresome task but ultimately very rewarding as it will help you make the right choices. Don't follow your friends when making these decisions. Also, work hard, even if you are unsure of your future career path. This is because courses are like doors, the better your results the more options you will have open to you.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS has greater opportunities on offer, than at comparative institutions. UWS course structures allow students to specialise and focus on their areas of interest. The scholarships offered also made going on exchange a reality. The exchange program at UWS stands out from those at other unis as it gives students in dual degrees more flexibility in choosing what to study.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

University study is a very important choice to make, consider what you want out of university and the area in which you wish to study. If you don't know anyone the first day, join a club or society with people that share your interests, you'll make friends fast and university will quickly become very enjoyable.

Course Information

Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws



Where is it held (campus)?

Parramatta

How long is it?

5 years full time

Recommended Studies:

Advanced English, HSC Mathematics.

Career opportunities:

Examples include: legal practices, the banking and finance sector, accounting firms and management consultancies, corporate management, government department and regulatory authorities.

Subjects include:

Introduction to Law, Torts Law, Contracts, Property Law, Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Commercial Law, Equity Trusts and Remedies, Dispute Resolution and Civil Procedure, Economics studies, Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

ATAR(2011)

90.20

Additional information:

This double degree permits students to undertake diverse career paths in multiple legal and economics areas. The Law degree provides the skills to analyse legal material, problems and principles, while understanding the relationship between the law and society. The Economics degree provides an understanding on how the economy works, covering political, social science, financial and business disciplines.

For more information:

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