Name: Rachel Brown
Degree: Bachelor of Medical Science (Advanced)
Year of degree: 1st (2013)
Campus: Campbelltown
High School: Magdalene Catholic High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2012
Scholarships held: Academic Excellence Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?
The degree is everything I expected and more! Medical science has a really great balance of medically-related topics and science-based subjects that complement each other to provide a holistic and insightful academic experience.

How is university different from school?
University has a very strong focus on independence - you are encouraged to take initiative in your studies and extra-curricular activities. You never know what new opportunities may arise from this! In addition, you get to experience an adult learning environment with more flexibility than high school.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?
High school helped me to develop and refine good study habits, exam techniques and organisational skills that have been very beneficial throughout my university experience. Developing these skills has allowed me to effectively embrace the independent style of learning that university presents.

What is the most interesting thing you've done at university so far?
As a member of the Aspire Future Leaders program, I’ve had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops teaching leadership, networking and communication skills. I then utilised these skills at a Networking function where I gained valuable contacts in my chosen field of study.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?
I've had the privilege of gaining casual employment with the university. Not only has this enabled me to broaden my knowledge of the university, it has also allowed me to develop professionally and participate in a variety of events held by the university.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?
I've become more aware of the potential career options my course has to offer. In particular, my interest in medical research has increased as science and technology continue to develop at such an exponential rate.

What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?
It is important to study something you are passionate about, because as Confucius wisely said, “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life”.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?
The new and extensive medical facilities and technology at UWS accompanied by its convenient location were aspects that I found very attractive. I also gained a place in the Aspire Future Leaders program, which continues to provide me with a variety of skills and opportunities that no other university has to offer. I was awarded a $20,000 Academic Excellence scholarship to assist with my university studies. In addition to this, I greatly enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere unique to UWS.

Any other comments or observations about university study?
University offers students so many great opportunities to grow both academically and personally. So utilise your talents and strengths to make the most of these opportunities as they arise!
Course Information

Bachelor of Medical Science (Advanced)

Where is it held (campus)? Campbelltown and Hawkesbury campuses

How long is it? 3 years full time

Career opportunities: Graduates of this degree will find employment in areas related to their area of focus, such as various medical research, biotechnology, quality control, hospital and pathology laboratories; and be well suited for positions in pharmaceutical or medical sales. Additionally, this degree specifically prepares graduates for entry into an Honours program and a career in research.

Subjects may include: Biodiversity, Scientific Literacy, Essential Chemistry 1, Functional Proteins and Genes, Pathological Basis of Disease, Pharmacological Chemistry, Medical Science Project, Microbiology, Immunology, Nanotechnology

ATAR (2014) 90.10 Campbelltown
92.75 Hawkesbury

Additional information: The UWS Advanced Medical Science degree is designed for high-achieving students who want to extend themselves. This is a challenging program that includes advanced coursework, extension activities and additional research training.

Each year a number of interview places for admission to the UWS Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery will be reserved for students in the first year of the Advanced Medical Science program who meet specified criteria.

For more information: Visit the UWS website course information at http://future.uws.edu.au/