

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



**Name:** Jessica Casey  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)  
**Year of degree:** 2<sup>nd</sup> (2011)  
**Campus:** Parramatta/Penrith (Kingswood)  
**High School:** Nagle College, Blacktown  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 2009  
**Scholarships held:** Academic Excellence Scholarship

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

I wasn't sure what to expect but the units I am studying are definitely providing me with the foundation for things I want to achieve in my future career. By studying a double degree I am also able to choose from a wide range of subjects.

**How is university different from school?**

University is different from school on so many levels. The study at university is more independent and there are many more students I share similar interests with, which provides a great opportunity to socialise. The canteens from high school days are now bars, cafes and even subway restaurants!

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

My high school was fantastic in helping me prepare for university. Our careers adviser was a great help in discussing our options for life after high school. We also had a great number of university students and representatives come and talk to us.

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

It would definitely be a tie between going to the NSW Supreme Court to witness bail applications for Criminal Law and partaking in actual research experiments for my psychology subjects.

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

By the end of my first year I could already see my grades improving - it was great to see my hard work finally paying off. I have also enjoyed being part of the Fast Forward mentoring program which has allowed me to get involved with younger school students who are looking forward to university.

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

As I am progressing through the different subjects I have been able to see what interests me and what doesn't. This hasn't changed my goal to become a lawyer, but the range of law subjects and arts subjects has opened my mind to career paths in the field of law that I didn't even know existed!

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

If university is something you are considering as an option, take every opportunity you can to get new information about possible paths of study. The options are endless!

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

I chose to study at UWS because the supportive learning environment appealed to me. As a bonus, UWS was also close to home and offered the degree that I wanted to study.

**Any other comments or observations about university study?**

Get involved in any groups or programs that interest you because it makes the whole university experience much more worthwhile. And remember not to be frightened to ask for help because everyone who is studying, or even teaching, at UWS has been in your position at some stage.



# Course Information



## **Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)**

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

**Parramatta/Penrith (Kingswood)**

**How long is it?**

**5 years full time**

**Career opportunities:**

**Law examples include: solicitor, barrister, corporate management, education, publishing, finance and banking.**

**Arts examples include: psychology or research positions, industrial and organisational psychology, forensic psychology and social policy development.**

**Subjects include:**

**The law component provides you with professional legal skills including the ability to analyse legal material, understand fundamental legal principles, understand the relationship between law and society, and gain general analytical skills for critical thinking and problem solving. Special emphasis is placed on the development of skills in advocacy, negotiation, legal drafting and legal research.**

**Psychology examples include: Social and Developmental Psychology, Behaviour and Environment, Personality, Motivation and Emotion, Human Learning and Cognition, Abnormal Behaviour and Psychological Testing and Neuroscience.**

**ATAR (2011)**

**90.40 Parramatta  
90.20 Campbelltown**

**Additional information:**

**Work experience during the course could be at the NSW Attorney General's in legal aid, working in cooperative Summer Research Programs with industry, or in the Australian Taxation Office advisory support scheme. The School is also undertaking a pilot with the National Pro Bono Board for a student pro bono (volunteer) scheme.**

**For more information:**

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