

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Zainib Cheema

Degree: Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

Year of degree: 2nd

Campus: Campbelltown

High School: Sule College, Prestons

Completed Year 12 in: 2007

Scholarships held: Academic Excellence

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

The course involves Problem Based Learning tutorials, lectures, anatomy practicals and in-hospital tutorials. We meet patients and learn about clinical, practical and emotional aspects of working as medical professionals. These diverse learning experiences make the course very well rounded.

How is university different from school?

The volume of work is far greater, so a lot more is expected of you, although you have more freedom to structure life the way you want it. Medicine is very regimented but the content of the course is so amazing you feel driven and motivated to complete everything assigned to you.

Did high school help you in preparing for university?

School helped me gain the academic skills needed for university and to prepare me for the social aspects of university life, through the development of confidence and people skills. My high school helped me figure out who I was, which was very important in finding my niche in the infinitely larger and more confusing world of university studies.

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

The hospital tutorials are interesting and learning to take blood was very cool. Meeting the patients is always fascinating. I got an airbrush tattoo at a café on campus. The lunchtime bands are pretty cool. Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard visited the campus – that was exciting.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I'm chairing the Global Health Group on campus. Tim Costello (CEO of World Vision Australia) and Phillip Courturier (CEO of Médecins Sans Frontières Australia) were keynote speakers at an event. We recently raised \$2950 in 1.5 hours and some of this funded birthing kits to aid in childbirth in under-developed regions of the world. A thousand of these kits are being sent to Afghanistan with the Australian Defence Force.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

I was interested in paediatrics but emergency medicine interests me now. Your interests change as you learn more about different fields and about medicine as a whole.

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

Do it! Education broadens your understanding of the world and the people you associate with. University helps you discover yourself. I've felt this keenly. You meet so many amazing people and have so many diverse experiences that you are bound to grow in ways that few other paths in life will allow you to.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

I've lived in Western Sydney my entire life, so it is nice to be somewhere familiar. It's also practical because the campus is only 15 minutes from my home. More importantly I felt very excited about being part of a course still in its early years. You feel confidence in the quality of the course and we're encouraged to help shape it through feedback to the School of Medicine.

Course Information

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery



Where is it held (campus)?

Campbelltown

How long is it?

5 years full time

Recommended studies:

Chemistry

Career opportunities:

Medical practice (either general or specialised), medical administration and medical research. Graduates will be eligible for registration by medical boards throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as a number of overseas countries.

Subjects include:

Three themes run throughout the course: health and illness in societies, professional skills and studies and the scientific basis of medical practice. Clinical exposure begins in the first year and continues throughout the program.

Selection Criteria:

As well as submitting a UAC application, applicants must satisfy other selection criteria. Visit the School of Medicine website at www.uws.edu.au/medicine for more details.

Additional information:

You need to have the capabilities to perform all aspects of standard medical practice such as history taking, physical examination and routine medical and surgical procedures in order to meet the program requirements. The initial two years of study will be at UWS Campbelltown campus. Further study may require rotations in various rural and Sydney metropolitan settings incurring travel, accommodation and other expenses.

For more information:

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