

Academic Speakers for Schools

As part of its Schools Action Plan, UWS has a register of academic speakers for schools. Speakers are available from all UWS Schools (faculties) and most Research Centres. Many are leaders in their fields. There is no charge associated with this initiative.

Following is a list of the speakers with their areas of expertise and samples of topics. If you would like one or more of these academics to present at your school, please fill out and return the separate request form.

All arrangements will be made through the Schools Engagement Unit, which will monitor and evaluate the register's success. To ensure effective organisation and tracking, we ask you not to contact the academics directly.

Due to university commitments and the popularity of some of our speakers, it may not always be possible to book the speaker of your choice for the date/s requested.

After each presentation we will ask you to fill out a brief evaluation form. Feedback is also welcome at other times.

For more information please contact:

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Subject Area: Computers					
Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Associate Professor Jonathon Allen	Associate Head of School, Industrial Design School of Engineering	Industrial design, innovation, new and emerging materials/technologies, futures	- Inventing the future	Very flexible – happy to work with any audience and can pitch it accordingly	Very flexible
	Lecturer School of Engineering	Engineering, mainly in telecommunications	- Engineering at UWS - Mobiles – behind the scenes	Year 10 – 12 students	20 – 30 mins

Subject Area: English					
Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Aila Khan	Associate Lecturer School of Marketing	Marketing	- Advertising - E-Marketing - Marketing Research	Students and teachers	30 minutes
Dr Cameron McAuliffe Not available after September	UWS Postdoctoral Research Fellow Centre for Cultural Research	Youth and creativity in Western Sydney, Multiculturalism and the politics of difference, geographies of religion, media representations	- Public Art/graffiti - The Media and Western Sydney - Multiculturalism and Religion	Years 11 and 12	1 teaching period

Subject Area: Health					
Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Vasiliki Betihavas	Associate Lecturer School of Nursing & Midwifery	Former student of UWS Undergraduate subject coordinator Critical Care/Trauma Primary health promotion	- Sport and health: all you need is 12 minutes... - Heart disease and health - Avocados are high in fat, that's what makes them good for you! - Nursing at UWS	High school students	20-40 minutes
Associate Professor Meg Smith	Associate Professor School of Social Sciences	Mental health, cannabis use by young people	- Careers working in the human services - Disability rights - Health promotion strategies for young people who are at risk of using cannabis	School staff	
Dr Elizabeth Halcomb	Senior Lecturer, Family & Community Health Research Group Course Coordinator Master of Nursing School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing research; chronic disease; nursing in general practice; nursing workforce	- Healthy lifestyles - Primary health – healthy communities - Role of nurses	High School students and teachers	can adjust to suit school's needs

Subject Area: HSIE (History, Geography, Business Studies, Economics, Legal Studies etc.)

Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
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Dr James Arvanitakis	Lecturer School of Humanities and Languages	Areas of expertise: Globalisation, social justice, human rights, hope, how to go from sitting on the couch to changing the world	- How to go from sitting on the couch to changing the world	High school students Teachers	30 minutes – 2 hours depending on school needs
			- Why we have a responsibility to the developing world		
			- Fair trade not free trade		
Prof. Andrew Beattie	Professor of Agricultural Entomology Centre for Plants and the Environment	Entomology	- Agricultural Entomology	High school students and staff	1 teaching period
			- Integrated pest management - of pests and diseases of agricultural importance		
			- Biological control - of insect pests		
			- Origins of <i>Citrus</i>		
			- The threat posed to the commercial citrus production and <i>Citrus</i> germplasm by 'huanglongbing' - the world's most serious disease of citrus.		
Michael Blissenden	Senior Lecturer School of Law	Legal studies Taxation Law	- Law and the legal profession	Senior students and teachers, careers advisors	30 minutes
			- Studying Law at UWS		
			- Yr 10-12 – on tax and tax returns for part time work		
Dr Louise Crabtree	Research Fellow and Research Program Coordinator Urban Research Centre	Sustainability, sustainable/affordable housing and urban food systems	- Urban living	Teachers Students	
			- Sustainability		
			- Urban food systems		
Prof. Kevin Dunn	Professor of Human Geography and Urban Studies School of Social Sciences	Geography, racism, religion, urban studies, planning	- Geographies of racism	Teachers Students	30 minutes
			- Immigration, migrant settlement		
			- Islam in Australia		
			- Town planning in NSW		
Dr Remko Duursma	Postdoctoral Fellow Centre for Plants and the Environment (Climate Change)	Forest growth, forest hydrology, climate change and vegetation function, computer modelling and data analysis, plant architecture	- Climate change effects on Australian forests	Students, teachers	30 minutes or longer
			- Water use of trees and forests		
			- Understanding graphs, charts and data		
Prof. David Ellsworth	Professor Centre for Plants and	Climate change	- Climate change	Teachers, students	1 period

	the Environment				
Dr James Farrell	Lecturer	History of economic thought, macroeconomics, public policy, economic philosophy	- What is a normal interest rate?	High school students and teachers	
	School of Economics and Finance		- Can we still turn to Keynes?		
			- Should government fund private schools?		
			- Government and personal responsibility		
Professor Katherine Gibson	Professorial Fellow	Human Geography; Development Studies; Political Economy: Social Action	- Challenges for rural development in Asia		
	Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy		- Local Economic Experiments with living in a climate changed world		
Dr Robert Hayes Limited availability, not available after July	Associate Professor	Criminal law, mental illness and the law, compensation and bullying	- Why go to law school?	Senior students, teachers	1 teaching period
	School of Law		- What to do about bullying?		
			- What are Victims' rights?		
			- Liability of a gang for a crime committed by one of its members		
			- What are the rights of mentally ill people?		
Ron Kelly	Lecturer	Business: Human Resource Management/ Industrial Relations and Career Management	- Employment Relations	High school students and staff	30 minutes
	School of Management		- Links between Business degrees and work opportunities		
Aila Khan	Associate Lecturer	Marketing	- Advertising	Students and teachers	30 minutes
	School of Marketing		- E-Marketing		
			- Marketing Research		
Patrick McGirr	Undergraduate Courses Coordinator CoB, Head of Program: Bachelor of Business and Commerce College of Business	Organisational studies	- Strategic management	School staff	
Dr Anil Mishra	Lecturer (Finance)	Financial Economics Cross Border Investment International Financial Integration	- Where Do Australians Invest?	Teachers, Senior High School students	30 minutes
	School of Economics and Finance		- Australia's Cross Border Investment		
			- Australia's Equity Home Bias		
David Mutton	Senior Lecturer	Forensic Psychology	- Forensic psychology and the Law	High School students	30 min
Dr Peter	Professor	Urban research, contemporary	- Cities	Teachers	-

Phibbs	Urban Research Centre	urbanisation, community consultation, Climate Change	- Climate Change and Planning Cities	Students	
			- Urban living		
			- Urban environments		
			- Sustainability		
Dr Jacqui Poltera	Research Fellow – Applied Philosophy Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy	Ethics and Philosophy (specifically – narratives of self, agency, political violence)	- Affordable housing		
			- Ethics and political violence during the Apartheid era in South Africa		
			- Violence and silencing (what happens when we feel silenced by a particular government, culture or political system?)		
			- How do our stories shape who we are?		
Dr Gerda Roelvink	Research Fellow Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy	Economic and human geography; social movements and collective action	- How important is self-control to autonomous agency?		
			- Ethics and the good life		
			- Moral responsibility		
			- New farming practices in Australia centred on landscape repair and caring for animals		
Associate Professor Philip Ross	Head of School School of Accounting	Accounting education, management accounting, local government audit	- The anti-globalisation movement and economic experimentation around the world	Teachers, students	
			- Accounting		
Dr Michelle Sanson	Senior Lecturer, First Year Coordinator School of Law	Studying Law The transition from school to university	- Why study law?	Senior students and teachers, careers advisors	1 teaching period
			- Career development		
			- The transition from school to university		
			- Making a contribution to society		
			- The legal system		
Maïke Sundmacher	Lecturer School of Economics and Finance	- Work-related: Finance, in particular risk management and banking - Private: personal empowerment and broad Germany knowledge and experience (native German)	- International law	Teachers and students from grade 4 onwards	1 – 2 hours but can adjust to suit school needs
			- Buy now, pay later – credit cards and other personal loans in the limelight		
			- Financial literacy – what is it and why should I care?		
			- I am in charge! My life, my responsibility!		
			- Future – who plans for that?		

		speaker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying in a diverse culture at UWS: a student and lecturer perspective - I went to school in Germany – an insight into German primary school education 		
Sharon Taylor	Assoc. Head of School (Engagement)	Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accounting - Financial Planning 	Teachers, Students	Can be customised to meet school's needs
	School of Accounting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial Literacy for teachers or students 		
Stephen Waters	Lecturer School of Management	Business systems and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Management Matters" board game. Present information in an interactive and fun environment, on the School of Management's current courses 	Year 11 and 12 students	30 minutes to play the game, 10 minutes to explain objectives
Subject Area: Mathematics					
Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Dr Carmel Coady	Associate Head of School, Mathematics	Mathematics education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of real world examples of mathematics in teaching the school curricula 	Teachers, high school students	15 mins to one hour/ one school period
	School of Computing and Mathematics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of reflective journals in the maths classroom 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Career paths in mathematics 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online mathematics 		
Dr Remko Duursma	Postdoctoral Fellow	Computer modelling and data analysis, forest growth, forest hydrology, climate change and vegetation function, plant architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding graphs, charts and data 	Students, teachers	30 minutes of longer
	Centre for Plants and the Environment (Climate Change)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water use of trees and forests 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change effects on Australian forests 		
Dr James Farrell	Lecturer School of Economics and Finance	History of economic thought, macroeconomics, public policy, economic philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is a normal interest rate? 	High school students and teachers	

Vikki Hardy	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing 25 years experience of university teaching Surviving and passing the first year of uni All sciences applied to nursing Nursing mathematics	- Nursing mathematics is easy	High School students	30 – 60 mins.
Dr Leanne Rylands Only available terms 1 & 2	Associate Head of School, Computer Science School of Computing and Mathematics	Mathematics, computer science, Rubik's Cube and related puzzles.	- Why study Computer Science?	Teachers, High School students, different topics for Primary students	15 mins – 1 hour, one school period. I have found it INVALUABLE to talk to the school contact about this and audience before the talk
			- Rubik's Cube (maths tells us much about how to solve Rubik's cube, and it is this I talk about when the audience is in years 10-12)		
			- How students who have done general maths fare at university.		

Subject Area: Professional Development

Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Dr Ann Dadich	Research Fellow Centre for Industry and Innovation Studies Research Group	Community-based support systems for young people, communicating research evidence to service providers and service users	- What can support groups offer young people with mental health issues? - How do we communicate research evidence to people who might benefit from it?	High school students, staff	30 min (excluding question time)
Ron Kelly	Lecturer School of Management	Business: Human Resource Management/ Industrial Relations and Career Management	- Employment Relations - Links between Business degrees and work opportunities	High school students and staff	30 minutes
Dr. Alex Kristovics	Lecturer School of Management	Organisational studies	- Ethical behaviour -Why does it so easily turn bad? - New approaches in Leadership - Motivation - Conflict Management - Team building	School staff	
Dr Lesley Kuhn	Senior Lecturer	Organisational studies, , Creative and Critical thinking,	- Learning Organisation	School staff	

	School of Management	Epistemology Facilitation of Learning (organisational, group and individual)			
Patrick McGirr	Undergraduate Courses Coordinator CoB, Head of Program: Bachelor of Business and Commerce College of Business	Organisational studies	- Strategic management	School staff	1 school period
Gill Murphy	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Mental health / mental health nursing	- Mental health nursing; mental health issues, identifying depression, anxiety.	Audience can be teachers, support staff in schools. High school children who are considering career choices. High school children regarding prevention of mental health issues	60mins (could make it shorter for high school children)
			- Prevention of mental health issues.		
			- Service provision of mental health issues.		
			- Care of children who have parents with mental illness.		
			- Identifying those at risk of suicide and self harm.		
- Understanding symptoms					
Maïke Sundmacher	Lecturer School of Economics and Finance	- Work-related: Finance, in particular risk management and banking - Private: personal empowerment and broad Germany knowledge and experience (native German speaker)	- Buy now, pay later – credit cards and other personal loans in the limelight	Teachers and students from grade 4 onwards	1 – 2 hours but can adjust to suit school needs
			- Financial literacy – what is it and why should I care?		
			- I am in charge! My life, my responsibility!		
			- Future – who plans for that?		
			- Studying in a diverse culture at UWS: a student and lecturer perspective		
- I went to school in Germany – an insight into German primary school education					
Associate Professor Meg Smith	Associate Professor School of Social Sciences	Mental health, cannabis use by young people	- Careers in working in the human services	School staff	
			- Disability rights		
			- Health promotion strategies for young people who are at risk of using		

			cannabis		
Dr. Meg Smith	Lecturer	Employment relations	- Negotiation	School staff	30 minutes
	School of Management		- Human resources and industrial relations issues		
Subject Area: Science					
Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Dr Trevor Bailey	Associate Head of School School of Biomedical and Health Sciences	Chemistry	- Chemistry	Teachers, students at most levels	1 school period
Professor John Bartlett	Head of School School of Natural Sciences	Nanotechnology, Energy, Chemistry	- Nanotechnology - Energy - Chemistry	High School students, teachers	20 minutes – 1 hour
Prof. Jens Coorsen	Professor of Molecular Physiology Head of the UWS Molecular Medicine Research Group School of Medicine	Cell biology/physiology, synaptic mechanisms, Proteomics, lipidomics	- Separating Molecules – how and why it's important in Biomedical Sciences	Teacher, staff, high school students	40 – 50 mins
			- Molecules-to-Cells (basically a simple primer on biological molecules and their assembly into the stuff of cells)		
			- Imaging (very basic intro to microscopy and its contribution to modern biomedical research)		
Associate Professor Miroslav Filipovic	Associate Professor School of Computing and Mathematics	Astronomy, physics	- Various topics from Astronomy	High School students, teachers	45 minutes
Vikki Hardy	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing 25 years experience of university teaching Surviving and passing the first year of uni All sciences applied to nursing Nursing mathematics	- Study techniques for Nursing science subjects	High School students	Depends on topic – 30 – 60 mins.
			- Chemistry for Nurses		
			- Physics for Nurses		
			- Death and dying		
Dr Cindy Kersaitis	Lecturer School of Biomedical	Neuropathology of dementia	- Brain pathology & dementia.	High school students and teachers	approx 30mins – very flexible
			- The brain.		
			- Why medical science research for a		

	& Health Sciences		career? - You don't need to be a medical doctor to have a career in medical science research. - Medical research by scientists.		
David Mutton	Senior Lecturer School of Psychology	Forensic Psychology	- Forensic psychology and the Law	High School students	30 min
Prof. Bill Price	Professor of Nanotechnology School of Biomedical and Health Sciences	Nanotechnology and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance including MRI	- Nanotechnology - MRI	Teachers, senior high school students	1 school period
Vivienne Rae	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Teaching and learning, science for nursing, science education.	- Transition to university study - Studying nursing - Nursing as an applied science	High School students and teachers	30 minutes but is negotiable
Assoc. Prof. Roy Tasker	Assoc. Professor of Chemistry School of Natural Sciences	Any topic in chemistry, interactive multimedia for learning, educational research	- Visualising the molecular world	Primary and High School students, teachers	1 hour but can adjust to suit

Subject Area: Vocational Education and Careers

Speaker's Name:	Position:	Areas of Expertise:	Sample Topics:	Target audience:	Presentation length:
Associate Professor Jonathon Allen	Associate Head of School, Industrial Design School of Engineering	Industrial design, innovation, new and emerging materials/technologies, futures	- Inventing the future	Very flexible – happy to work with any audience and can pitch it accordingly	Very flexible
Vasiliki Betihavas	Associate Lecturer School of Nursing & Midwifery	Undergraduate subject coordinator Critical Care/Trauma Primary health promotion	- Nursing at UWS - Sport and health: all you need is 12 minutes... - Heart disease and health: Avocados are high in fat, that's what makes them good for you!	Students and teachers	20-40 minutes
Michael	Senior Lecturer	Legal studies	- Law and the legal profession	Senior students	30 minutes

Blissenden	School of Law	Taxation Law	- Studying Law at UWS	and teachers, careers advisors	
			- Yr 10-12 – on tax and tax returns for part time work		
Dr Gihane Endrawes	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Mental Health, trans-cultural nursing, professional Nurse	- Mental health: Causes, theories and burdens and treatment of mental illnesses	Can be catered and prepared to suit a specific age group	1 – 2 hours
			- Issues related to stigma, historical perspective on mental illness, legal and ethical rights and responsibilities, the role of mental health nurse		
			- Trans-cultural Nursing: effective communication, cultural sensitivity, the meaning and importance of culture, ethnocentrism, cultural pain, culturally competent care.		
			- Professional Nursing: issues of accountability, ethical principles: autonomy, justice, fairness, beneficence, non-maleficence, moral dilemmas		
Dr Upul Gunawardana	Lecturer School of Engineering	Engineering, mainly in telecommunications	- Engineering at UWS	Year 10 – 12 students	20 – 30 mins
			- Mobiles – behind the scenes		
Dr Elizabeth Halcomb	Senior Lecturer, Family & Community Health Research Group Course Coordinator Master of Nursing School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing research; chronic disease; nursing in general practice; nursing workforce	- Role of nurses	High School students and teachers	can adjust to suit school's needs
			- Primary health – healthy communities		
			- Healthy lifestyles		
Vikki Hardy	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing 25 years experience of university teaching Surviving and passing the first year of uni All sciences applied to nursing Nursing mathematics	- Surviving and passing the first year of uni	High School students	Depends on topic – 30 – 60 mins.
			- Becoming a Nurse in the 21 century		
			- Study techniques for Nursing science subjects		
			- Ethics and Nursing		
			- Nursing mathematics is easy		

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemistry for Nurses - Physics for Nurses - Death and dying 		
Dr Robert Hayes Limited availability, not available after July	Associate Professor School of Law	Criminal law, mental illness and the law, compensation and bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why go to law school? - What to do about bullying? - What are Victims' rights? - Liability of a gang for a crime committed by one of its members - What are the rights of mentally ill people? 	Senior students, teachers	1 teaching period
Ron Kelly	Lecturer School of Management	Business: Human Resource Management/ Industrial Relations and Career Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment Relations - Links between Business degrees and work opportunities 	High school students and staff	30 minutes
Dr Cindy Kersaitis	Lecturer School of Biomedical & Health Sciences	Neuropathology of dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brain pathology & dementia. - The brain. - Why medical science research for a career? - You don't need to be a medical doctor to have a career in medical science research. - Medical research by scientists. 	High school students and teachers	approx 30mins – very flexible
Dr Laretta Luck	Assoc. Head of School School of Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing and midwifery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nursing – why do it? - - Nursing at UWS 	Students, careers advisors, teachers	30 – 40 mins
Gill Murphy	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Mental health / mental health nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health nursing; mental health issues, identifying depression, anxiety. - Prevention of mental health issues. - Service provision of mental health issues. - Care of children who have parents with mental illness. - Identifying those at risk of suicide and self harm. - Understanding symptoms 	Audience can be teachers, support staff in schools. High school children who are considering career choices. High school children regarding prevention of mental health issues	60mins (could make it shorter for high school children)

David Mutton	Senior Lecturer, Master of Forensic Psychology Course Advisor School of Psychology	Forensic Psychology	- Forensic psychology and the Law	High School students	30 min
Vivienne Rae	Lecturer School of Nursing and Midwifery	Teaching and learning, science for nursing, science education.	- Transition to university study - Studying nursing - Nursing as an applied science	High School students and teachers	30 minutes but is negotiable
Dr Michelle Sanson	Senior Lecturer, First Year Coordinator School of Law	Studying Law The transition from school to university	- Why study law? - Career development - The transition from school to university - Making a contribution to society - The legal system - International law	Senior students and teachers, careers advisors	1 teaching period
Assoc. Prof. Caroline Smith	Associate Professor Centre for Complementary Medicine Research	Acupuncture, Chinese medicine, research, women's health	- What you should know about acupuncture - What's new in Chinese medicine? (in Australia 50% of the population use a complementary medicine)	High School students	10 minutes
Associate Professor Meg Smith	Associate Professor School of Social Sciences	Mental health, cannabis use by young people	- Careers working in the human services - Disability rights - Health promotion strategies for young people who are at risk of using cannabis	School staff	
Maïke Sundmacher	Lecturer School of Economics and Finance	- Work-related: Finance, in particular risk management and banking - Private: personal empowerment and broad Germany knowledge and experience (native German speaker)	- Buy now, pay later – credit cards and other personal loans in the limelight - Financial literacy – what is it and why should I care? - I am in charge! My life, my responsibility! - Future – who plans for that? - Studying in a diverse culture at UWS: a student and lecturer perspective - I went to school in Germany – an insight into German primary school education	Teachers and students from grade 4 onwards	1 – 2 hours but can adjust to suit school needs

Dr Grace Yan	Lecturer	Structural health monitoring Structural dynamics	- High-rise buildings	High school teachers and students	1 hour
	School of Engineering		- Bridges and the health monitoring system on them		

Please forward your requested speakers and topics to:

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