

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

**Name:** Louisa Costa  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts  
**Year of degree:** 2nd (2011)  
**Campus:** Campbelltown/Penrith  
**High School:** Magdalene Catholic High School  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 2009  
**Scholarships held:** Academic Excellence



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

As the first member of my family to attend uni, I had no idea what to expect. The arts side of my course (including a psychology major) is very different to what I'd anticipated, but this was not a bad thing!

**How is university different from school?**

At high school, especially during your HSC year, the teachers are accessible for constant assistance. Uni requires much more independent learning – you need the motivation to work hard and turn up to classes! It's up to you to ask for help from your tutors if you need it. The tutors and lecturers are there to give you the information - not be at your beck and call!

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

High school can help you develop good study patterns and become an independent worker, other than that uni is extremely different to high school! At university you are in the adult world meaning you must take responsibility for your learning. Weak, illegitimate excuses for poor academic performance or late submission of assignments will not be tolerated.

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

I immensely enjoyed last year's law camp, at the beginning of my course. It was a fantastic way to meet wonderful new friends and I highly recommend it.

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

Maintaining grades that I'm proud of, which was difficult initially due to how different uni is to high school. I've made wonderful new friends and been exposed to all different people and views. This has truly enriched my life and perspective!

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

I still want to practise law however my course, especially the psychology side, has helped to narrow down what kind of law I wish to practise and exposed me to new interests. The career fairs and opportunities UWS offers also assist greatly.

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

Be prepared for an experience very different to high school! At uni you are going to start off at the bottom just like everyone else, which gives you a clean slate to learn what university requires of you and to have new experiences. Make sure you choose a course you're actually interested in!

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

The close location! Between part time work, study and various volunteer activities I am extremely busy and did not want to waste time travelling. Also, UWS offers academic scholarships for ATARs over 90. To be rewarded in such a generous manner for working so hard in your HSC would be an opportunity silly to pass on!

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

University study is what you make of it! If you are in a course you actually enjoy and get involved in uni life (UWS offers a variety of social, academic and cultural events) you will enjoy your experience. Be prepared to work hard, be mature and responsible for your own learning! You have to learn what uni requires of you. Remember university is a clean slate where nothing from high school matters any more. So work hard, be open-minded, meet diverse people and be exposed to different experiences that will enrich your life!

# Course Information



## Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts

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

**Campbelltown and Penrith**

**How long is it?**

**5 years full time, concurrent study of the two degrees for the first three years, last two years dedicated to completing the law component.**

**Assumed knowledge:**

**Any two units of HSC English.**

**Career opportunities:**

**Law examples include: solicitor, barrister, corporate management, education, publishing, finance and banking. Arts examples include: arts administration, teaching (with further study), writer/author, politician, linguist, community planner, librarian, researcher, public relations, information technology and social policy development.**

**Subjects include:**

**Law: law foundation, criminal law, constitutional law, professional responsibility and legal ethics, commercial law, criminal procedure and evidence, as well as an extensive list of alternate units.**

**Arts major studies include: Humanities (art history, cinema studies, Asian studies, international relations, cultural and social analysis, politics, philosophy), Islamic studies, Languages, Psychology and Social Ecology.**

**ATAR (2011)**

**Parramatta – 90.40  
Campbelltown – 90.20**

**Additional information:**

**Law – this course combines a broad liberal legal education with a strong practical orientation. It is designed to equip students with the required knowledge and skills for legal practice.**

**Arts – different majors are available at the various campuses – check the location of your preferred area of study. At UWS the topics of study blend theory along with their practical application.**

**For more information:**

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