

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES



Name: Lauren Drayton

Degree: Bachelor of Communication (Journalism)

Year of degree: 2nd

Campus: Penrith (Werrington South campus)

High School: James Busby High School

Completed Year 12 in: 2007

Scholarships held: UWS Indigenous Achievement Scholarship and Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

To be honest I didn't know what to expect, but I thought this degree would be a lot of hard work. It is, but not so much that I feel buried under a constant work load.

How is university different from school?

University is very much an independent learning environment. Your progress and eventual success rely on you and the amount of effort you put in. The school structure has the means to push you. You have to push yourself at university.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

I don't think high school really helped in preparation for university. You hear about experiences but that doesn't help you map everything out. High school is a path to get into university.

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

The most interesting thing for me didn't actually occur at university. This year, as part of the journalism degree, I did work experience at CLEO magazine.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I've only been at university for just over a year and a half, so I'm still in the process of achieving anything of great merit. I did get a distinction for my Journalism unit in my first year. I was pretty happy with that.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

No, I don't think so. I've always wanted to write and still do. I've had positive feedback from my writing units, so I'm pretty sure that's where I'm headed.

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

First of all the HSC is NOT the be all and end all of university entry. I didn't achieve my UAI, but through alternative entry I found myself at university anyway. Secondly, university is a great learning environment where you're free to express yourself in the best way you can and it isn't as stressful as you may think. If you procrastinate you'll find it harder to continue on.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS provides a personal learning experience. UWS also has students from the Greater Western Sydney area, so you'll feel comfortable learning with people similar to you.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

University study is easy if you put the hard work in. It's also more open to unique ideas and will help you learn a lot about yourself and your abilities. University courses are taught by people with experience in your chosen field, as well as being very practical. I find that learning from experience is more fulfilling than learning from a text book.

Course Information

Bachelor of Communication (Journalism)



Where is it held (campus)?

Penrith (Werrington South Campus)

How long is it?

Four years full time

Assumed knowledge:

Any two units of English, proficiency in reading, understanding and writing English

Career opportunities?

Print and broadcast journalism, online publications and publishing industries, news and current affairs, writing, editing, sub-editing, information and entertainment industries, government and media regulatory agencies, community groups and business enterprises

Subjects include:

Writing as Communication, Communication Research, Public Relations Theory and Practice, Introduction to Journalism, Communication Law and Ethics, Journalism, Communication Design Major Project, Communication and Creative Industries, Researching Media Audiences

UAI (2009)

Penrith – 72.60

Additional information:

In the study area of journalism, students develop broadcast, print and online journalism skills for newspaper, magazine, internet, radio, television and corporate and community media contexts, and news team participation and management. Professional Practice is combined with a critical study of journalism theory.

An option exists to complete a three-year degree: Bachelor of Communication Studies which is a less specialised area of study. The fourth year of study is built around an optional Honours project, professional engagement or professional research.

For more information:

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