

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Shawin Maharaj
Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Pathway to Teaching Primary)/
Master of Teaching (Primary)
Year of degree: 2nd (2010)
Campus: Bankstown
High School: Ingleburn High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2007



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

I am actually enjoying my studies more than expected. My majors include Cultural and Social Analysis and English, Texts and Writing as well as doing education units. These incorporate units from sociology, cultural studies, linguistics and sometimes psychology.

How is university different from school?

The atmosphere as a whole is different, from the weekly schedules to the lack of restriction. You discover that you are in charge of your own learning and your uni experience is what you make it.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

Most of my teachers who offered advice throughout my schooling helped. This included advice on creating study strategies, which is valuable for independent study in university.

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

Every unit I have done has contributed something different yet interesting towards my course. This semester involved film studies, writing a children's book and working with other students on class presentations.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

By studying at uni I have been able to learn a lot about myself. I think I have gained a lot from the social analytical side of my studies. Aside from this, I have also taken part in the UWS Indigenous School Student Mentoring Program which has been a great experience and has been beneficial for my future teaching.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

In a way, I have gone from having little idea of what I wanted to do, to now having a clear direction towards a career in education.

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

Don't be afraid to go for what you want to do. You'll definitely get more out of uni than just the qualification – the whole university experience is well worth it for anyone who chooses to pursue university life. It can be challenging at times but finding your own way to overcome these challenges is one of the many benefits of continuing study at uni. Also, when in doubt, ask as many questions as possible!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

UWS appealed to me with the Bachelor/Masters course structure for education and I live near the Campbelltown and Bankstown campuses. I've found the students and staff at UWS very friendly and welcoming.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

I initially started a Bachelor of Science course but was not enthusiastic about it. I sought advice and enrolled in a few Bachelor of Arts units which I loved. I am now more settled in my studies. Finding the right course for you is sometimes a matter of trial and error.

Course Information



Bachelor of Arts (Pathway to Teaching Primary)/ Master of Teaching (Primary)

Where is it held (campus)?

**Bankstown and Penrith (Kingswood Campus) –
Bachelor of Arts (Pathway to Teaching Primary)
Bankstown – Master of Teaching (Primary)**

How long is it?

4 years full time

Assumed knowledge:

**Any two units of English at Band 4, two units of HSC
maths.**

Career opportunities?

**Areas relevant to the major studies completed
include: communication and the media industries,
education, entertainment and arts administration,
government, cultural and heritage organizations,
psychology and counseling, tourism and leisure
industries, writing and publishing, teaching.**

Subjects include:

**Australia and the World, Contemporary Society,
Texts and Traditions, Analytical Reading and
Writing, Behaviour and Environment, Psychology,
Cultural and Social Analysis, Education Studies.**

ATAR (2010)

**Penrith – 70.10
Bankstown – 70.15**

Additional information:

**This degree will allow you to focus on a general
program of your choice, whilst also completing an
Education Studies major, gaining the
necessary learning areas to satisfy the NSW Institute
of Teachers discipline knowledge requirements for
entry into further studies in teaching.**

**The Masters course is offered at the Bankstown
campus and is available one year accelerated mode,
one and a half years full time or up to three years
part time.**

For more information:

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