

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

**Name:** Monique Cini  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Policing  
**Year of degree:** 2nd (2011)  
**Campus:** Kingswood  
**High School:** St Mary's Senior High School  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 2009  
**Scholarships held:** UWS Academic Excellence Scholarship



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

Mostly, yes, although there are a lot of mandatory core subjects from other areas of study such as psychology, sociology and geography, which I didn't expect, but became relevant to policing further into the course itself.

**How is university different from school?**

University requires you to take the initiative to complete assignments on your own. The staff are still there to help, but it's your responsibility to approach them. The classes are also very flexible – full-time students may only need to be on campus for 2 days per week, which still allows enough time for independent study and work, etc.

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

I went to a senior school which was very similar to University as it gave students a lot of freedom and emphasised independent and self-directed learning. The teachers did not "chase up" students – work that was not completed on time would be reflected in a student's overall results. This is like university, so the transition was easier.

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

As part of the degree I have been undertaking 1 week study blocks at the Goulburn Police Academy which has allowed us to turn theory into practice, with their facilities used to conduct the practical aspects of the course.

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

No, although having a degree from UWS will allow me to consider a range of career options within the Police Force itself in the near future.

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

Do the course that makes you happy. Don't go through life saying "what if?". A few years of study at uni can open up so many options for your career choice.

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

Other than a university in Bathurst, UWS is the only uni which offers a direct pathway into the NSW Police Force for students, providing they meet the criteria. If students are not successful in the physical or medical aspects of the course they can still gain a degree by transferring into a Bachelor of Social Science (Criminology & Criminal Justice) in their final year. The lecturers and tutors at UWS are highly experienced and knowledgeable. Often our lecturers consist of NSW detectives and serving officers who are able to share with us their own life experiences in policing.

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

It may seem a bit overwhelming at first but you will settle in within the first few weeks.

# Course Information



## Bachelor of Policing

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

**Penrith and Bankstown**

**How long is it?**

**3 years full time**

**Career opportunities:**

With its focus on problem solving and analytical skills, the Policing degree opens doors into the [NSW Police Force](#), the Australian Federal Police, numerous other law enforcement agencies, and an array of alternative careers, depending on the electives you choose, for example, criminal investigation, prosecutions, juvenile justice, probation and parole or traffic management.

**Subjects include:**

Understanding Society, Introduction to Criminology, Evidence, Investigations and Police Intelligence, Social Research Methods, Victimisation and Crime Prevention, Culture and Crime, Gender, Crime and Violence and Prisons and Punishment.

**ATAR (2011)**

**Penrith 71.50  
Bankstown 68.05**

**Additional information:**

This course was developed in collaboration with the NSW Police and is based on real life, practical experience. It provides you with essential knowledge and skills in policing theory and practice to equip you for a career with the NSW Police and other policing agencies. The flexibility of the course will allow you to accelerate or extend your course by varying the number of units you complete per semester to control your workload.

**For more information:**

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