

SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

Name: Sionea Breust

Degree: Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Social Science

Year of degree: 3rd (2011)

Campus: Parramatta

High School: Cambridge Park High School

Completed Year 12 in: 2008

Scholarships held: Jim Anderson Scholarship; Indigenous Achievement Scholarship; Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship



Is the degree or course structure what you expected?

I thought that we would just look at what crime is etc (Criminology being my major), I did not realise that there are so many underlying issues and theories that are important to the study of society and its function. Although it took me a while to get used to it Social Science is actually quite important and challenging which always keeps you thinking "what if?". I really enjoy it as it allows me to answer the questions I have.

How is university different from school?

There is no-one pushing you to complete your assessments. A big part of university is individual responsibility - you must be on top of your assessments with regards to the dates, times and requirements.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?

We were required to meet deadlines and to do bibliographies for our assessments, both of which are very important. Reference lists are essential to avoid plagiarism and to acknowledge the work of others.

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

The most interesting things I have done would have to be a *Gender, Crime and Violence* subject, which dealt with issues relating to crime, victimisation, statistics and the impact that gender has on such issues, and also becoming a mentor to Indigenous youth. I have a passion for helping people and believe education impacts on every aspect of a person's life. If we can have a positive influence on Indigenous people at an early age perhaps it could change, increase and expand their future prospects. I personally would like to be a part of this process.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?

I have received several scholarships and have received good marks which continue to get better. I also undertook an internship at Urbis (Social Research), in which I wrote literature reviews, went out on fieldwork and undertook qualitative and quantitative analysis etc. Only one internship was offered.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?

I have always wanted to do law to help people in need, such as Indigenous people, however, I have become very interested in my Social Science degree as well. I would like to be involved in social research to help deal with social issues of high importance. University has improved my understanding of the legal and social issues people face and increased my desire to work with vulnerable people to help them receive equality and fairness before the law.

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

Although university may not be for everyone, it's a good way to broaden your understanding of your area of interest. The information and knowledge that you gain is never wasted, as it is relevant to your everyday life experiences and a very useful resource for your future prospects.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?

I chose to study at UWS not only because it is close to where I live, but also because of the positive experiences a friend had at UWS, who is now a practising lawyer. Being able to take units on different campuses means you can meet new people with interests like yours, and there is access to a wide range of courses and resources, including libraries.

Any other comments or observations about university study?

Get involved with university life, including activities, sports, volunteer work etc, make new friends and contacts and have a great time. Balance your social life with your work and university life. Don't look at university as a burden, look at it as a positive experience and a great place to learn and meet new people.

Course Information



Bachelor of Law/ **Bachelor of Social Science**

Where is it held (campus)?

Parramatta and Campbelltown

How long is it?

5 years full time

Recommended studies:

Advanced English for Law

Career opportunities:

Law examples include: solicitor, barrister, corporate management, education, publishing, finance, banking

Social Science (Criminology) include: probation and parole, policy advice and research, community agencies, child protection, local government, police services

Subjects include:

Law: Law Foundation, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics, Commercial Law, Criminal Procedure and Evidence

Social Science (Criminology): Juvenile Crime and Justice, Contemporary Perspectives in Criminology, Culture and Crime, Prisons and Punishment

ATAR (2011)

**Campbelltown - 90.20
Parramatta - 90.40**

Additional information:

The degrees are structured to allow concurrent study in the two degrees in the first three years, with the last two years dedicated to completing the law component. The Law component of this course has an embedded Honours stream available to high-achieving students.

For more information:

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