Name: Anaum Zahid  
Degree: Master of Teaching (Secondary)  
Year of degree: 1st (2013)  
Campus: Penrith  
High School: Malek Fahd Islamic High School  
Completed Year 12 in: 2007  
Scholarships held: Academic Excellence 2007-2009, when enrolled in Bachelor of Business and Commerce (Advanced Leadership Program)

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?  
No, it is far more engaging and enjoyable than I expected it would be.

How is university different from school?  
Educators treat you like adults within a classroom and that’s very empowering. Also, the information is not spoon fed and you have to take the initiative to attend classes, read required material and study, or you’ll fall behind.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?  
My high school was very strict and our study load was kept pretty high, so I became used to performing well under pressure – a quality that has come to my rescue many times during my time at university!

What is the most interesting thing you’ve done at university so far?  
I am part of a program run by the university called Pathways to Dreaming: the UWS Indigenous School Student Mentoring Program. It has given me the opportunity to visit a number of schools and meet some wonderful Indigenous students. It’s reassured me about my course and allowed me to make a difference.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?  
I have maintained a high GPA since the beginning of my course, which wasn’t the case with my previous course. I am happy with my results and have come to realise that only by striving for better results will you get there.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?  
I began with a Business degree and changed to Teaching, which has been far more enjoyable. I believe I can make a difference to future generations and my education units have given me the necessary tools to do so.

What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?  
Choose a course you have an interest in, something you’re passionate about. And do all your readings – no matter how daunting they may seem!

Why did you choose to study at UWS?  
UWS campuses are close to where I live and the Master of Education (Secondary) course is offered in the time span of a year and a half which is six months shorter than most other universities.

Any other comments or observations about university study?  
In many ways university study is much more enjoyable than high school as you can choose what pace you want to study at – two, three or four units, depending on your circumstances or learning style. It allows you to take responsibility for your own education and to grow in confidence along the way.

More School Graduate Stories at: http://www.uws.edu.au/community/in_the_community/for_schools/school GraduateStories
Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Where is it held (campus)? Penrith

How long is it? 1.5 years full time

Career opportunities: The dual qualification of an undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Arts degree) and post-graduate teaching qualification provides great flexibility. You will be qualified as a secondary school teacher, so you can teach in government and non-government schools in Australia and in most other countries.

Subjects may include: Inclusive Education: Principles and Practices; Positive Learning Environments; Diversity, Social Justice and Equity; Professional Experience I, II and III; and your Secondary Method subjects such as English, Mathematics or PDHPE

ATAR (2013) N/A

Additional information: An additional Honours year is available to high-achieving students. The application and proposal need to be provided to the Honours Academic Course Advisor at the beginning of the second semester of your degree.

Taken as additional study following your Master of Teaching degree, a Master of Special Education gives you a second teaching qualification in an area of high demand.

For more information: Visit the UWS website course information at http://future.uws.edu.au/