Name: Ellen Clarkstone
Degree: Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)
Year of degree: 2nd (2010)
Campus: Werrington South
High School: St Columba’s High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2007

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?
Yes and more. My course has provided me with the fundamentals needed for design as well as many other great avenues to explore in my future career.

How is university different from school?
University is very different from School. University provides students with a sense of independence and helps to build their characters for when they begin their own careers.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?
My school helped me by holding many career presentations and took me to career expos at UWS. It also provided help with my UAC application and I was able to get relevant information from my careers advisor.

What is the most interesting thing you’ve done at university this year?
This semester I was able to choose a children’s book and illustrate the entire book to my own design. This allowed me to explore different illustrative techniques and mediums and to use them in any way I chose to illustrate the book.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?
Mastering the Adobe Suite programs. Creating t-shirts and posters for friends and families which has also helped to refine my skills.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?
After starting the course I found out how broad it actually was, which has led to my career aspirations constantly changing between graphic design, advertising, teaching and photography.

What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?
Don’t be shy when asking for information about a course. Ask about everything you want to know including: what the course offers, the work you will be doing in the course, its accreditation, where it can take you (careers) and fees involved.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?
Mostly for its location. It’s much easier to travel for half an hour to Penrith than to the city for an hour and a half each way.

More School Graduate Stories at: http://www.uws.edu.au/community/in_the_community/for_schools/school_graduate_stories
Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication)

Where is it held (campus)? Penrith (Werrington South)

How long is it? 4 years full time

Career opportunities: Graphic designer, photographer, illustrator, art director, design journalist, information designer, interactive multimedia designer, web designer, design educator, animator, television or video designer.

Subjects include: Design management, the history and theory of visual communication design, typography, advertising, the web and visual literacy, through a range of studio and project work. Study will include individual and team-based project work, extensive use of advanced computer technologies, concept development studio practice, and a significant opportunity to engage with real community and industry projects.

ATAR (2010) Penrith 64.05

Additional information: Graduates are eligible for membership of the Design Institute of Australia (DIA) and the Australian Graphic Design Association (AGDA).

During the fourth year, students participate in team-based projects with students from other programs including marketers, branding experts, organisational communicators and production specialists.

Students interested in becoming a secondary teacher can study the Bachelor of Design Studies (three-year exit point), followed by the UWS secondary teacher education course.

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