Name: Stacey Coates  
Degree: Master of Teaching (Primary)  
Year of degree: 1st (2013)  
Campus: Bankstown  
Completed Year 12 in: 1998 – mature-age UWS student  
Scholarships held: Department of Education and Communities  
Teaching Scholarship

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?  
Yes. My undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) which I completed in 2007) was quite comprehensive, providing me with a good foundation to move into the Masters degree.

How is university different from your memories of school?  
At university students are required to be more proactive with their learning. Technology has certainly changed (e.g. online learning and using iPads in classes!). Also, classes are much more interactive (group discussions) and we cover more content in a shorter period of time.

How did your previous life experiences help you in preparing for university?  
Having worked full-time for many years before going to uni I was already equipped with vital skills such as:

- Being organised (it’s all about time management!!)
- Strong communication skills
- Working with people from diverse backgrounds gave me a better understanding of sociology subjects
- A mature approach to learning

What is the most interesting thing you’ve done at university so far?  
I’ve found most of my subjects interesting! However, I’ve just started my placement for the Classrooms Without Borders unit – and it’s been amazing. It’s put all the theory I’ve studied into perspective.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?  
Completing my undergraduate degree!! I had the opportunity to work with the Department of Community Services (DoCS) as a Child Protection Caseworker – I was able to use my knowledge to assist children in need.

Have your career aspirations changed in any way?  
Yes and no. I always wanted to work with children, in a “helping” capacity – and I achieved that. However, rather than working with children living in crisis situations, I now want to assist children reach their full learning potential and to build their self-efficacy.

What advice would you give to other mature-age people considering university study?  
Do it! You’re never too old to go back to “school”. If you are really motivated and you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything. Age is no barrier.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?  
UWS has a fantastic reputation – and it’s exceeded all my expectations. I wouldn’t go anywhere else...

Any other comments or observations about university study?  
The university offers so many services to help develop your academic skills. It’s a very supportive learning environment.

Master of Teaching (Primary)

Where is it held (campus)? Bankstown

How long is it? 2 years full time

Career opportunities: This postgraduate degree qualifies you to be a primary school teacher, teaching from Kindergarten to Year 6 in both government and non-government schools in Australia and most other countries. You will be equipped with the communication and people skills, creativity and capacity for independent thought, flexibility and adaptability in new situations that are increasingly demanded by employers.

Subjects may include: Educational Psychology for Primary Teaching; Learning for Teaching; Primary Human Society and Its Environment; Teaching in New Times; Primary Science and Technology; and Inclusive Teaching for Effective Learning.

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. This degree allows you to work as a special educator in primary schools.

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