Name: Isuri Gunatillake
Degree: Bachelor of Psychology
Year of degree: 3rd (2011)
Campus: Bankstown
High School: Baulkham Hills High School
Completed Year 12 in: 2006

Is the degree or course structure what you expected?
To be honest, no. I presumed psychology would be all about differences in personality and interpersonal relationships. But in reality, this is only a very small subsection of psychology. Having studied psychology for a few years, I now understand that psychology is very broad, encompassing aspects of science, and even statistics.

How is university different from school?
University is all about independence. Your whole university experience is set by you, at your own pace and in the way that you want. In addition university allows, to a large extent, flexibility and freedom, particularly in the subjects that you can enrol in, as well as the times that you attend class.

How did high school help you in preparing for university?
My study techniques, time management and general approach to education and learning, all stem from my experiences in high school.

What is the most interesting thing you've done at university so far?
During the summer university break, I was involved in psychological research for a market research company. That was an amazing opportunity for me to apply knowledge from my degree, firsthand, and see the real-life relevance of what I am learning.

What are some of your achievements since you started university?
I have been a Peer Assisted Study Session facilitator, which taught me so much about the process of learning and ways that I can be more efficient in this process. I am listed in the Dean’s Merit list for academic excellence, as well as being a member of the Golden Key Honour Society.

Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?
No, I have always been interested in a career within psychology, particularly given its apparent relevance to everyday life. I am finding that my interest within the fields of psychology increases with each year.

What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?
Be excited about the prospect of pursuing university study. There is so much to university life and it certainly is exciting and enjoyable at the same time. With hard work and efficient time management, you can experience the best of university life.

Why did you choose to study at UWS?
I was very impressed with the course structure for the Bachelor of Psychology program.

Course Information

Bachelor of Psychology

Where is it held (campus)? Bankstown

How long is it? 4 years full time

Career opportunities: Examples include: psychology or research positions, industrial and organisational psychology, counselling psychology, vocational psychology, clinical neuropsychology, developmental disability and educational psychology, forensic psychology and sport psychology

Subjects include: Examples include: Social and Developmental Psychology, Behaviour and Environment, Personality, Motivation and Emotion, Human Learning and Cognition, Abnormal Behaviour and Psychological Testing and Neuroscience

ATAR (2011) 80.95

Additional information: Completion of an accredited four year program in psychology will lead to provisional registration as a psychologist by the Psychology Board of Australia (AHPRA) and associate membership of the Australian Psychological Society. On completion of a further two years of study the intern psychologist will be eligible for full registration and for membership of the society.

The fourth year of this course, if you meet the requirements, is an Honours program, involving specialised research. Fourth-year students not undertaking the Honours program will study a Specialist Psychology program comprising one core unit in psychological assessment, two electives, research methods, and an empirical research project presented as a thesis.

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