



Nursing Student's Testimonial (Undergraduate)

Andrew Horne

I began the Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Wollongong in early 2007. I came straight from high school after completing the High School Certificate in 2006 in a small rural town in southern NSW. I decided to attend the University of Wollongong for a number of reasons. Firstly is the location; Wollongong being a coastal city allowed me to experience a different lifestyle and a broader perspective on life. Wollongong is only an hour from the centre of Sydney and the gateway to the South Coast and Shoalhaven. Secondly is the reputation that the University of Wollongong has within Australia and around the world.

Coming from a small country town to Wollongong was a very scary and daunting experience. Coming from a rural area, I had the opportunity to live on campus at one of the residences, Weerona College. The staff and students were very welcoming and friendly at both the residence and within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health. Both Weerona College and the University's grounds were appealing and had many open spaces to study or relax.

The Bachelor of Nursing has been a rewarding three years. From the first day you walk through the doors to the day of graduation, you are on first name basis with the staff. Over the past three years, I have received excellent support from academic, simulation and administration staff. All the staff at the university are passionate, dedicated and willing to help for you to achieve the best possible outcome.

During my time at the University of Wollongong, I have had the opportunity to undertake a vast variety of clinical placements. I have had the opportunity to go to remote hospitals, rural base hospitals and metropolitan hospitals in southern Sydney. The clinical placement component of the degree helps many students fully understand the concepts that we learn in the classroom and enables us to put theory into practice.

I graduated in December 2009, and in 2010 I will be taking on my next challenge, a Master of Nursing - Research. Over the past three years I have formed life lasting friendships with many students from around NSW and Australia. The decision to come to Wollongong and study nursing has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. I urge any perspective student who is considering nursing to take every opportunity out there, as they say the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. Choosing the University of Wollongong has been the best decision I have ever made.