THE HSC IS NEARLY HERE.
FROM EVERYONE AT UOW...
Welcome to the last UniSpeak of 2011. It’s been a long time since Discovery Days back in February. To find out how far you can go in that time, we caught up with Scully in Florida, USA, to talk about his internship over there.

Your HSC exams are just around the corner, so we’ve included some information on study tips and key dates to help you stay on top of things. We also talk to Matthew, a UOW College graduate, about his pathway to uni, scholarships, and how you can add bonus entry points to your UOW application.

When you get your ATAR, don’t forget: if your rank is higher or lower than you expected, you should talk to us about study options. Options Day on 4 January is a great chance for this, or you can call us on 1300 367 869 or email uniadvice@uow.edu.au

The UOW team

The University of Wollongong was the highest-performing public university in Australia overall for ‘domestic graduates’ in the independent Good Universities Guide 2012.

The category rates universities across five key performance indicators, where only the top twenty per cent of universities nationwide can be awarded 5 stars in any one category. This demonstrates UOW graduates are well-rounded, enjoy high employment rates, great access to further study, and are taught by leaders in their field.

★★★★★ Domestic Graduates: Generic Skills
★★★★★ Domestic Graduates: Overall Satisfaction
★★★★★ Domestic Graduates: Teaching Quality
★★★★ Staff Qualifications
★★★ Staff-student ratios

The Good Universities Guide 2012 Edition
The HSC is fast approaching, and good study habits will be more important in the next month or two than ever before. A lot of people will already have a study routine worked out by this point. If you’re having trouble getting started, though, we’ve included a few tips here that you might find useful. There’s a wealth of information on good study technique out there if you look, and asking your teachers for help is always a good place to start.

1. stick to the syllabus
No matter what else you learn, make sure you know the syllabus. It can sometimes be easy to get caught up in self-directed extra research, but if you get too far off track you could be impairing your performance in the final assessments, not enhancing it. Remember—if it’s not in the syllabus, it cannot be in the final exam. Extra knowledge doesn’t always translate into extra marks.

2. pace yourself
Good time management skills at all levels are a key component of performing well in the HSC. Start revision early; regular study will improve your performance far more than cramming. Organise a study schedule and stick to it. Set yourself timed revision exercises. Getting used to working within time limits will be invaluable in the HSC exams. When the exams get nearer, you can practice writing essay-style answers to practice questions, with similar time limits to the actual exam.

3. work, rest, play
Get enough sleep. Caffeine is not a good substitute for sleep. Plan ahead now and you’ll have more than enough time to get all your study done and still get enough sleep to perform your best. It doesn’t matter what you know if you can’t keep your eyes open in the exam hall. If you need a break, take a break—keeping active will help maintain levels of alertness, and fight off boredom, and keeping stress levels in check will equate to better performance. Break up your study into a series of attainable goals, instead of trying to do it all in one block.

4. environmental engineering
Create a study environment that is free of distractions. Start with your physical environment—an uncluttered desk in a quiet area is ideal. Get a clock for your workspace: a clock that isn’t on a mobile. Phones are killers for study time both for conversations and the web. If need be, block out study time and let people know you won’t be available.

5. world wide waste
Don’t let yourself be distracted when you’re online. Phones and computers can be major timewasters, so if you’re on the computer to study, stay away from the social web. And again, leave your phone off or out of reach.

6. don’t panic
The HSC is important, but try to keep it in perspective. Mild stress can be channelled usefully and help you perform better, and is perfectly normal. If things feel like they’re getting out of hand, talk to your teachers. They may be able to help you maintain your composure and confidence.
Greetings from Florida, USA!

When I spoke at Discovery Days earlier this year, I spoke about telling a good story. One of the things I mentioned was how I wanted to travel and to hopefully do an internship in the USA. Well, the past few months have seen me get that opportunity.

Since May, I have been living in Cocoa, FL working for the non-profit organisation To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA).

When I graduated from Communication and Media last year I really wanted to travel, but I also wanted to do something that mattered. This internship has been great because I’ve been able to come over to the USA and work for an inspirational organisation.

For those who don’t know, TWLOHA is a non-profit organisation dedicated to giving hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, self-injury, addiction and suicide. I heard of TWLOHA in high school and I loved the way they used music and stories to connect with people and talk about issues that can be hard to speak about.

A normal day for me starts in the morning with all of the interns around a big desk where we respond to emails and letters that we receive from supporters. These can be heavy at times, but can also be really inspiring. In many ways this has been the hardest and most rewarding part of the job.

After that we all have a number of special projects to work on. For me, I’ve been monitoring some of our social media pages, such as YouTube, Vimeo and the street team. I also research news stories that are relevant to TWLOHA and post short summaries on our website.

As my time at this internship is drawing to an end I am excited for what is coming next. I plan to travel the USA for the remainder of the year: I still want to see Vegas, the Grand Canyon and New York. I am definitely having an adventure, my story has taken some unexpected turns but I am loving it and I can’t wait to see what happens next.

Good luck as you tackle the HSC and hopefully I see some of you around next year.
Having completed the Foundation Studies program at UOW College, Matthew Estherby has found the advantages of studying at UOW College go beyond being a stepping-stone into university; it has also made him a better student.

“UOW College has given me an edge in my first year of university. The transition from UOW College to university has been seamless, and it’s because you’re using the same university systems at UOW College.”

Matthew began studying at UOW College after completing his HSC. His journey to university has been made easier by UOW College’s courses that are tailored to help students bridge the gap to studying at UOW.

“Learning the university standards is really useful; it’s become second nature. It teaches you discipline and makes the university experience easier. Classes at UOW College are spread throughout the day, and a lot of the time is spent on campus studying. This taught me to be better at studying, and allowed me to do my best again.”

“I chose to study at UOW College because it is at the University, and that’s where I wanted to go. The certainty that UOW College offered for my future was something other colleges and institutions could not match. I feel studying at UOW College is worth it because of the doors it opens.”

Since graduating from UOW College, Matthew has begun a Bachelor of International Studies degree. Programs at UOW College are open to students from a variety of backgrounds, and this international experience is something students can gain from.

“The student lifestyle is just like being at University. There is a close-knit community at UOW College and it is a great way to make friends. One of the coolest things about UOW College is meeting people from overseas. I have friends from all over the world, and it is a great opportunity to help fellow students.”

“The staff at UOW College are genuinely interested in getting the best from students and take our suggestions to heart. I’m enjoying UOW more now because I’m appreciating the challenge of the subjects I’m doing.”

For over 20 years UOW College has helped students gain entry and succeed at university and beyond. They teach a range of Foundation Studies and Diploma programs that offer guaranteed entry to UOW on successful completion.

To explore your options, call 1300 367 869 or visit uowcollege.edu.au
BONUS POINTS

Bonus points at UOW help you put your best foot forward. There are two different ways you might be awarded bonus points when you apply to UOW—and you may be eligible for both, which would mean up to six bonus points.

Local and Regional Bonus

If you are completing your HSC at a school in UOW’s local area, or in regional or remote NSW, you will receive three bonus points to your application to UOW. The best news is that applying is automatic—if you attend an eligible school, the points will be applied to your UAC preferences for UOW.

These bonus points are part of how UOW demonstrates its commitment to supporting students in regional, rural and remote NSW.

- Eligibility is based on the school’s postcode, NOT a student’s residential address. This information is based on local government boundaries.
- UOW provides UAC with the school names, and UAC automatically add 3 bonus points to any student who has a preference to study an undergraduate degree at UOW; and who qualifies for an ATAR.
- The bonus points apply to all of UOW’s undergraduate courses.
- There is no application.

For a full list of eligible schools, see www.uow.edu.au/future/bonuspoints/bonus3

Points to UOW

We know that if you’ve done well in relevant HSC subjects, you’re better prepared for university. With Points to UOW, you can score up to three extra points for doing well in subjects relevant to your UOW degree.

Eligibility

You must be eligible to receive an ATAR (or equivalent), complete your HSC in the year prior to admission and complete relevant subjects. Points to UOW are awarded only for UOW undergraduate degrees that start in the Autumn Session.

Application

It’s all automatic! The Points to UOW program is facilitated via the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC)—if you have a UAC preference for a UOW course and your performance in an HSC subject is in the specified band, points will be automatically added for that UOW preference.

How many extra points?

You can earn a maximum of three extra points for each UOW preference. The number of points awarded is specific to each individual UOW undergraduate course, so if you select several UOW degrees as preferences, you may have a different admission ranking for each preference, depending on which HSC subjects you complete and your results in each subject. This means that with both programs, you could potentially get 6 bonus points from UOW.

For a full explanation, including a calculator to estimate how many bonus points you may receive, go to www.uow.edu.au/future/pointstouow

SCHOLARSHIPS

UOW offers over 300 scholarships every year to deserving students. The scholarships reward students for academic achievement, determination and leadership qualities. As well as cash awards, there are scholarships that offer work and community placements.

Scholarships are complemented by the UOW grants scheme, which supports students experiencing social or financial disadvantage.

For details, see www.uow.edu.au/about/scholarships

“It’s so easy to apply for scholarships, that even if you think you don’t have a chance, apply anyway. You never know what might happen, don’t ever underestimate yourself.”

Georgie Girdler, Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) HBS Faculty School Scholarship

“Having that extra industry experience in my final year gives me an invaluable edge in the job market. Being able to put my skills into practice in the work environment has really put me ahead.”

Rachael Walls, Bachelor of Science (Psychology) – Bachelor of Laws Law Work Integrated Learning Scholarship

“My Summer Vacation placement gave me great real world experience that led to a job in the industry.”

Gaetano Venticinque, Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) Engineering Summer Vacation Scholarship
UAC APPLICATIONS AND KEY DATES

Applications to UOW through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) are now open and on-time applications close 30 September. UAC is the central office that receives and processes applications to admission to undergraduate degrees for most universities in NSW and the ACT.

- You will need your UAC application number to apply. If you don’t have it, you can ask your school Career Adviser or contact UAC directly.
- You will need your UAC PIN. This number will have been sent to you in the middle of Year 12.
- You can make your application at www.uac.edu.au

You will have nine preferences for universities and courses, which you will be able to change until early January 2012. Remember to list your preferences in the order you want to do them.

- Results
  
  HSC results released online. ATAR results are released the following day on December 15.

- UOW Options Day
  
  If your ATAR was different to what you expected, your study options might have changed. Options Day is your last chance to discuss options before UAC preferences close.

- Change of Preferences
  
  Change of preferences close for UAC main round at midnight. UAC phone lines and web can be very busy near the deadline, so get in early to avoid disappointment.

- Offers
  
  Main round university offers e-released at 9 pm. Hard copy offers will arrive from 19 January.