

INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE

MAKE YOUR MARK: WRITE YOUR OWN STORY



OWN YOUR FUTURE

Education means you can choose. Choose where you live, where you work, how you contribute to your community and how you support your family. It means you can seek long-lasting and fulfilling employment.

A degree teaches you to look for solutions.

Completing a degree shows employers you can manage your time well, meet deadlines and are committed to seeing things through.

At uni you'll also get opportunities to practise what you're learning in the classroom through cadetships, paid placements and industry internships.

A university degree helps you gain skills that will not only set you up for a fantastic career, but enable you to create a life where anything you dream is possible.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our universities stand. We would also like to pay respect to Elders past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these places.

Our experiences at school are not always an indication of whether we can succeed at university. Mainstream schools don't always recognise all our strengths and talents.

WHAT WE KNOW



Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students overcome difficulties at high school to be successful at uni and rise to the top of the class.

They thrive at uni because they have found a place that encourages all kinds of learners.

Going to uni requires passion and determination more than top marks. We believe if you can give it a go and stick with it, you will succeed.

And we'll be here to help you.

That's why there's alternative entry programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at every university.

The time of your life

You don't need to know exactly which career path you want to follow to go to university.

Uni is an opportunity to learn about yourself, gain confidence and find your way. And you'll have the time of your life.

At university, lecturers respect and value difference and diversity. You have the freedom to choose what you study and when. It's up to you.

And there's so much more to campus life than just study.

Your time on campus will give you the opportunity to share your culture and have fun while studying.

Get involved in student associations, on-campus social experiences or travel. Find yourself in leadership programs, student politics, sports clubs or volunteering.

You'll meet amazing people from all over Australia and the world who you can share experiences with. Get involved, give it your all and you'll be surprised by what you'll experience and achieve.



A man with a beard and sunglasses on his head is walking from left to right. He is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt, dark trousers, and blue sneakers. He has a brown leather satchel slung over his shoulder and is clapping his hands. The background is a vibrant, abstract mural with large strokes of purple, yellow, and red.

We're in this together

While a uni campus can feel like a big place, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander campus centres are here to help you feel connected.

All our staff and students understand your feelings of excitement and trepidation about what lies ahead.

Some will be just like you, about to take their first step on a life-changing journey; others are here to share their experiences and wisdom.

For some, change can be overwhelming. That's why the staff and students at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit on your campus are ready to embrace and encourage you.

It's like joining one big friendly and supportive family.

Whether it's financial assistance, counselling, access to learning programs, housing, career advice or cultural support, the people at your unit will help you find the answers you need.

When you look back you may wonder what you were so worried about.

LIFE CHANGING

The knowledge you gain at university will equip you as a professional to do wonderful things for your family and your people.

Whether that's becoming a journalist, midwife, engineer, doctor, teacher or lawyer, your education will empower you and your whole community.

Going to uni is an opportunity to be a role model to those who are younger than you and may be looking for inspiration, encouragement and motivation.

They will see that if you can do it, they can do it too.





"I realised pretty quickly that KFC wasn't going to keep me going."

TORI IS STUDYING SPORTS AND EXERCISE AT UWS

My family and school turned me away from uni. I figured I had to find a job. I did think about uni, but I didn't believe in myself. My friends weren't doing it so I didn't. I had no idea what to do so I worked full-time at KFC. My sister was manager. She was going great. Everyone was happy for her so I followed her.

I had an Aboriginal mentor, Belinda, who told me about the benefits of uni. So I did work experience with a physio at Penrith Panthers and it was great. I've always wanted to be a physiotherapist. Eventually I want to own my own business – an Aboriginal business just like the Aboriginal Medical Service, but for physio.

Mum's really happy that I'm at uni. Dad was hesitant. He thought I wasn't ready. I had to explain to him what I would achieve in the long term. He's coming around now I'm going my own way.

BOU IS STUDYING HEALTH SCIENCE
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT UWS

I was interested in how the brain works. I'd watch those TV shows where people look into the brain – that really excited me. But as I got into it, I couldn't see myself sitting behind a desk. I needed to be outside. So I switched degrees.

I'm working for the uni as an Indigenous mentor. We go into high schools and teach kids that uni is an option. The kids really open up to you. I enjoy my Aboriginal culture. A lot of kids don't. That's the struggle. I also work with the NRL and go into schools and teach kids footy. All these experiences are setting me up for my new career teaching PDHPE.




IVOR IS FROM RAUKKAN IN SA AND IS STUDYING MEDICAL SCIENCE AT UTS

I love Raukkan. My whole family's there. It's one big circle of houses on a very small island, but medical health affects us because the hospitals are so far away.

I was the first Aboriginal to go to St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney. When I hit year nine, I didn't want to be at school anymore. I wanted to do an apprenticeship and get money easily.

I was part of the AIME program where we went to university and did workshops. That's when I realised I should give it a go.

Now I'm studying medical science because I want to be a rural doctor and help out my community.



CHRIS IS FROM DUBBO AND IS STUDYING SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE AT UTS

I came to uni to prove to my community that there's more to life outside Dubbo. Back home a lot of people get stuck. Dubbo hasn't got much to offer.

If I didn't have the support I've had in Sydney, I don't think I would be where I am now. At first I thought, "Uni isn't for me. I want to go back home." But the support at uni has made me feel this is where I belong. I'm going to prove to myself and everyone else that I can do and be much more.

**JHADE IS FROM TINGA, NSW AND IS
STUDYING TEACHING AT MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY**

When I was in year nine I said, "I don't want to be Aboriginal. I just want to be Jhade." I really struggled with my identity.

I think it's important to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers. That's why I'm studying teaching so other students won't struggle like I did.

Being taught culture from an Aboriginal person is so important. It's not someone telling me who I am. It's someone telling us who we are.

At uni I'm surrounded by so many powerful Aboriginal people who are pushing me to be better than even I think I can be!

I can now say I'm proud, I'm Aboriginal and I'm taking this town by storm!

**"University helped me discover
who I am as a proud Kamilaroi
woman."**



**JESSE IS STUDYING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**

University meant dollar signs for me. If I could put myself through uni, I could drive a nice car and have a big house. I don't want a big house now, but I want to be financially secure. That's something that hasn't really happened in my family.

I've been doing an internship at St George Bank. It's made me realise how interested I am in international business. My big goal is to work for Westpac. Their bicentenary is coming up and there's opportunities to work overseas. I want to apply for their graduate program and showcase my writing and international business skills. It's a long shot, but I'm going to keep working towards it.



A portrait of James, a young man with a beard and short dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey t-shirt and a thin necklace. The background is a light grey brick wall.

**“Don’t let anybody say
you can’t do something.”**

JAMES IS FROM BRISBANE AND IS
STUDYING COMMUNICATIONS AT UTS

I didn’t like school. I didn’t understand what was going on in the classroom. As long as I excelled at sport, the school didn’t mind what my marks were. When I told the careers advisor I wanted to go to university, she said, “You’re not smart enough to do that.”

When I started working at the gym, I’d read the newspaper on my breaks and get upset about the way Aboriginal people were being portrayed. One day my boss said, “If you want to change what the media says in this country, why don’t you get yourself educated?”

Now I study part-time and work full-time. I feel like I’m making a difference. I’m part of the media and I’m helping influence it. I wouldn’t have gotten where I am without going to uni.

The biggest roadblock is self-doubt. Those limitations in your mind can really hold you back.

A portrait of Christopher, a young man with dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a graphic and a green backpack. The background is a light brown wooden wall.

CHRISTOPHER IS STUDYING TEACHING, SECONDARY &
ARTS/HUMANITIES AT ACU

I enjoyed school. I did debating and had great teachers. I want to teach too. It’ll be a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. I was worried about getting lost in the uni system and not making friends. But that was dealt with in the first three weeks! Going back to my old school to adjudicate debating, I’ve realised how much I love imparting knowledge and helping people reach their full potential. It’s proved to me that everyone’s better off following their dreams and doing what they love.

IT'S OUR UNIVERSITY, MAKE IT YOURS Australian Catholic University (ACU) is one of Australia's few national universities. ACU empowers students to think critically, ethically and globally to bring about change in their professions and communities. As a publicly funded university, we welcome students from all backgrounds. Students undertake professional and community engagement placements throughout their studies with many securing jobs before they graduate. At ACU, community engagement is embedded in all of our courses. We have campuses in Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney and Strathfield. Our students can attend an overseas university in more than 16 countries, complete international internships and work in community programs around the world while receiving credit towards their degree.

WE OFFER A VARIETY OF COURSES ACROSS FOUR FACULTIES

Arts and Education, Business and Law, Health Sciences and Theology and Philosophy. ACU has a well-known reputation in the fields of Education and Health Sciences – we are currently the largest provider of graduate nurses in Australia, as well as graduating many Indigenous teachers. We offer an Indigenous-specific course, the Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Indigenous Studies), along with covering individual units that are Indigenous-specific including Indigenous Cultures and Peoples. Visit acu.edu.au to discover the undergraduate (First Degree) and postgraduate courses available at all ACU campuses.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

Our Indigenous Higher Education Units drive the Australian Indigenous Peoples cultural aspect throughout ACU. This is achieved through collaboration with internal and external partners, identified Indigenous courses, working in partnership with all faculties for culturally-based subjects, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student support and work with the greater community to enable pathways for future students.



YALBALINGA (PLACE OF LEARNING)

Based on ACU's Strathfield and North Sydney campuses, Yalbalinga provides social, cultural, personal and academic support. We create space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to meet, gather their thoughts, rest, reflect and study.

We believe you are on a personal and spiritual journey. Our staff offer a cultural and supportive environment to help you excel in your student experience.

Yalbalinga provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with academic and administrative support, social, cultural and personal support, access to computers, study and relaxation facilities, a place to meet other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and information about scholarships.

Our staff stay in regular contact with students and encourage positive self-esteem. We also support our students by promoting appropriate courses, assisting with enrolment, developing relationships between students, faculty and counsellors and offering cultural, social and religious events throughout the year.

Our programs

We make our courses accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through direct entry, alternative entry and our Away From Base programs.

Prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can gain alternative entry into ACU based on their potential to succeed in a course. Prospective students are given the opportunity to demonstrate this through an interview process with Yalbalinga staff.

Prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can also apply by direct entry to our undergraduate program, The Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Indigenous Studies).

This course is offered in Away From Base mode, which allows students to remain in their community while studying. The student attends university for a one-week residential at the start and end of each semester with the remaining study undertaken via distance mode.

There are many pathways to university. Contact our student support officers to find the right pathway into ACU for you.



OUR PEOPLE



DANIELLE DENT is a Student Support Officer at Yalbalinga. She is a proud Gamilaraay woman from Mungindi in New South Wales.

She loves supporting students through their studies, "I'm able to make a difference to the educational journey of every student, especially when that student becomes a graduate."

Her advice to new students: utilise your Indigenous unit's services. You get out of your studies what you put in and we're here to support you as much as we can.

Housing

ACU's new student accommodation is located in Camperdown, Sydney. Here you will access residential assistants who will help you with study techniques and settling into Sydney life.



Financial support

Some of the many scholarships offered include:

- ▶ ACU Law – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bursary
- ▶ Nano Nagle Scholarship
- ▶ Pratt Foundation Bursary
- ▶ St Vincent de Paul Society (National Council and Broken Bay Central Council) Indigenous Student Scholarships
- ▶ St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing Scholarship

YALBALINGA

Phone: (Toll Free) 1800 733 405

Email: yalbalinga@acu.edu.au

Website: acu.edu.au

CONNECT

ASHLEE IS FROM QUAKERS HILL AND IS STUDYING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION, PRIMARY AT ACU

I'm a bit of a professional student. I was young when I started. I should've graduated a couple of years ago. I failed a few subjects because I didn't take them seriously. So I deferred for six months and asked myself some serious questions about where I saw my life going. I came back fighting! I did five units a semester, summer and winter school. I've learnt a lot about my responsibilities. I'm serious about my goals and what I have to do to achieve them. Now I've caught up. I'm looking forward to graduating in 2015!

I think uni's about having a goal at the top of the ladder. Keep climbing each rung. You'll get knocked back a few times, you'll slip and trip, but you'll eventually get there. If you've got that fight in you to get it done and do something great with your life, you can.

"We have one life. We've really got to make it count."



Macquarie University



MACQUARIE IS AUSTRALIA'S NUMBER ONE MODERN UNIVERSITY Situated on 126 hectares of park-like campus, Macquarie is within the heart of Australia's largest high-technology precinct in North Ryde, just 15 kilometres from the city centre. With an on-campus train station, Macquarie is one of the easiest universities to get to by public transport. A vibrant and diverse university, Macquarie strives to be the most socially inclusive campus in Australia. Students and staff from over 100 countries who speak more than 50 languages, study and work at Macquarie. Macquarie is renowned for thinking differently; a philosophy instilled in all Macquarie students. Macquarie is also known for its distinctive curriculum, which incorporates national and international community engagement opportunities for all students, helping to build their communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.



WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE A MACQUARIE EDUCATION you don't just learn from textbooks, you learn from the practical application of your knowledge in real-life organisations and environments. Macquarie pioneered interdisciplinary study – an approach that teaches you to think more broadly, to tackle the big questions in life and the things that really matter to society. We offer degrees in Law, Business, Primary, Secondary and Early Childhood Education, Media, Cultural Studies, Economics, Psychology, Creative Arts, Languages, Linguistics and Speech and Hearing, and many more!

OUR VISION FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

Macquarie University is a culturally safe and competent university, which leads in the provision of higher education and employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are committed to ensuring that our institutional culture, the cultural competence of our staff and the nature of our curriculum recognises and supports the participation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.



WARAWARA – DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Warawara provides excellent academic, pastoral and cultural support to students. Our team are highly experienced in ensuring that the academic journeys of our students are as smooth as possible. Many students refer to Warawara as their 'home away from home.'

The Warawara computer lab provides free computer and printing facilities to students 24/7. Our common room provides students with a safe space to relax, eat and catch up with friends and staff at the university. We also offer tutorial rooms for the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS).

Our Indigenous Student Support Officer provides general support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students such as having a yarn and assisting with Abstudy and scholarship applications.

They also are connected with a vast network across the university and are able to put you in contact with other areas as required.

Warawara is fortunate to have the cultural support and guidance of our Elder in Residence. She is happy to have a yarn and point you in the right direction should you need assistance from other areas of the university.

Our programs

The Warawara Alternative Entry Program is an equity initiative of Macquarie University aimed at increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation within bachelor level programs across the university.

The Program offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may not have completed a HSC or acquired a necessary ATAR/UAI score an entry into their program of choice.

Applicants will be required to attend an assessment day where they will be given the opportunity to demonstrate they possess the minimal essential skills and knowledge in order to successfully participate in their chosen course.



OUR PEOPLE



AUNTIE ELAINE CHAPMAN is the Elder in Residence at Warawara.

She is a Wiradjuri woman from the Central Coast and is studying a Masters of Indigenous Education at Macquarie University.

"I have the privilege of being mentor to our wonderful students as well as providing cultural support for students and staff. Working with young people from all different walks of life is both exciting and rewarding for me."

Auntie Elaine believes that education can change lives.

Housing

We have a large variety of on-campus housing options. These include shared accommodation at the Macquarie University Village or single room accommodation at Dunmore Lang College or Robert Menzies College.

Financial support

We offer a range of scholarships. Most have a strong emphasis on social inclusion and equity and are awarded on the basis of financial need. Others recognise factors such as academic excellence or sporting achievement.

Commonwealth Scholarships assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from low socio-economic backgrounds with costs associated with higher education. These are:

- ▶ Indigenous Access Scholarship (valued at \$4984 in 2014)
- ▶ Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (valued at \$2492 in 2014)
- ▶ Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (valued at \$4702 in 2014).

The Macquarie University and Dunmore Lang College Regional and Rural scholarship recognises the initial and ongoing costs for a student relocating to study at Macquarie University. The successful applicant will receive:

A Macquarie Education Costs Scholarship (MECS) valued at \$4938 (amount is indexed each year)


- ▶ A fully-funded standard room in (including board) – Dunmore Lang College (valued at \$13,000 per annum)
- ▶ Scholarship renewable for up to 4 years

WARAWARA

Phone: (Toll Free) 1800 066 465

Email: warawaraadmin@mq.edu.au

Website: warawara.mq.edu.au



“The word ‘university’ sounds scary, but you have to get past that. We’re all just having a go.”

SARAH IS FROM BROOME AND IS STUDYING ARTS AND EDUCATION, PRIMARY AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

I’ve always wanted to be a teacher. My dad was a principal, his parents were teachers — teaching runs in my family!

I did high school up to year 10 in Broome. At that stage I was dancing. My goal was to get into NAISDA and maybe Bangarra. Then I was sent to boarding school in Sydney. That’s when education kicked in.

Uni’s a really good place for me. It was hard going from a private girl’s school to uni. I failed my first assignment ever! I didn’t know how to reference and I didn’t have a teacher to show me how. So I went to Warawara and got tutoring. The rest is history.

I’m at Warawara every day. Sometimes you just need to be around other Indigenous people. It’s so good. You walk in there and say, “Help me guys!” and everyone says, “We feel the same!”

I have big dreams. I want to teach in Aboriginal communities in the East Kimberleys — Warmun and Turkey Creek. I hope to empower other Aboriginal people through the wonder of receiving an education.

The University of Sydney



THE FUTURE IS YOURS at the University of Sydney. Ranked among the top 100 universities in the world and consistently in the top three in Australia, tradition and reputation fuse with a progressive and active outlook at the University of Sydney. The University of Sydney was founded in 1850 on a hilltop on the land of the Cadigal people. Lake Northam was an important gathering place for the first peoples and now forms the centrepiece of Victoria Park, just outside the university gates. When you study at the University of Sydney, you'll join a vibrant community of over 50,000 of the world's brightest minds. Ours is a dynamic, welcoming and exciting environment that is truly international. We offer the best student experience in Australia with over 200 clubs and societies, competitive and social sporting teams, two fully equipped fitness centres and a dynamic calendar of on campus events and celebrations. Inspiring people and possibilities are yours to discover at the University of Sydney.



WE OFFER THE WIDEST RANGE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

of any Australian university and will put you in touch with a world of possibilities through our international affiliations, industry mentoring programs and innovative partnerships. Our academics are international leaders in their fields, pushing boundaries and improving lives addressing everything from developing cleaner fuels to fighting chronic disease. We pride ourselves on our innovative and impressive research and education facilities such as our new Business School and the Charles Perkins Centre, an interdisciplinary hub that brings together academics and practitioners to find real-world solutions to obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Our graduates are distinguished leaders in Australia and throughout the world, and include many prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders such as Dr Charles Perkins.

OUR VISION FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

The University of Sydney is a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff are able to enjoy their identity freely, safely, confidently and with pride. We are also a university where all people – students, staff, alumni and visitors – are able to engage, reflect and grow.



THE KOORI CENTRE — CAMPERDOWN/DARLINGTON CAMPUS

The Koori Centre is a culturally safe space for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Centre provides a fully equipped computer laboratory, photocopying facilities, research library, a tutorial room for study and a student/staff common room with full kitchen facilities.

YOOROANG GARANG — CUMBERLAND CAMPUS

Yooroang Garang is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support Unit for students studying within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Located on our Cumberland Campus, it provides a variety of support programs and has a fully equipped computer lab, study resources, tutorial rooms and a student common room with kitchen facilities.

Our programs

Cadigal Alternative Entry Program

An access and support program designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in achieving their educational goals.

Cadigal Pathway

An access and support pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who wish to study at the University of Sydney. It can assist you with entry to university and offers academic and social support throughout your degree. Admittance under the Cadigal Pathway offers enrolment with a full-time or reduced course load.

Cadigal Reduced Load Pathway (Pemulwuy)

A pathway providing opportunities for students who have been assessed and require additional support in their first year of tertiary study. If you're admitted under the Cadigal Reduced Load Pathway, you will be invited to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences or Bachelor of Health Sciences degree. In your first year, you will undertake a reduced number of foundational units of study, supplementary academic skill development workshops and individual tutoring to build your confidence, competence and capacity to succeed in your studies.



OUR PEOPLE



ANDREW OLSEN is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support Officer at The Koori Centre.

Andrew really enjoys working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, "It gives me a sense of satisfaction knowing the work I am doing is helping make a difference for our mob."

His advice to new students: Any university can offer you a piece of paper, but if you want a degree that really means something, come to Sydney Uni.

Housing

There are seven residential colleges affiliated with the University of Sydney and one owned by the university.

Living at college will help make your transition to university life a positive experience. Residential colleges enrich your education academically, socially and culturally. Some of the colleges offer residential scholarships and encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to apply for a place.

Financial support

As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student, you may be eligible for a variety of scholarships and bursaries. These are designed to provide financial support and help you develop and excel in your studies.

This includes a \$10,000 guaranteed entry scholarship to all students who enrol at the university and have an ATAR of 85 or above.

sydney.edu.au/scholarship-indigenous




FUTURE STUDENTS

Phone: (Toll Free) 1300 362 006

Website: sydney.edu.au/future-students

CONNECT



"Set the bar high. You can always bring it down, but you can't always push it back up."

JAMES IS STUDYING A DOUBLE DEGREE IN ARTS AND EDUCATION (SECONDARY: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

When year 12 rolled around I started thinking about life after school. I was playing a lot of sport and thought a professional sports career would be the answer. I was fortunate to have a role model in my brother, who went to uni and was doing really well – he inspired me to give it a go. Lucky I did – I realised my abilities in sport were only going to last so long, whereas an education would last forever.

Initially I received a rugby scholarship to go to uni. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so I started a broad degree – arts and science. Once I saw that an education could help people with their quality of life, I decided to become a teacher to help others.

The Department of Education and NSW Corrective Services were advertising cadetships and the staff at uni suggested I apply for one. I've been on the cadetship for three years and it's been great. I go and teach in various gaols around NSW. It's very humbling to go in there and help people who are genuinely interested in learning and bettering their lives.

I started out as someone who wasn't going to go to uni. Now I want to do post graduate studies in Criminology and use my education to travel.

University of Technology, Sydney

UTS COURSES ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR practice-based approach and industry recognition. You will graduate with essential hands-on experience, exposure to cutting-edge technology, and the knowledge and skills employers want, while our faculties are embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and knowledge into all their courses. Within easy walking distance of Central Station and the Sydney CBD, our city campus is easily accessible by public transport. Studying doesn't mean you have to put your career on hold. Many of our courses are offered with flexible timetabling. You can study part-time or alternate between block study and work. You can have the best of both worlds.





UTS EXCELS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING ACROSS ALL FACULTIES

Some of our outstanding courses are in Design, Engineering, Communication and Health. Our new Bachelor of Animation is giving the animators of the future exposure to some of the industry's greatest talents. Additionally our health courses are second to none. Our Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing provides Endorsed Enrolled Nurses world-class facilities to progress to becoming a Registered Nurse.

OUR VISION FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

We believe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education is not only about creating opportunities for our people, but is equally about creating opportunities for all Australians to gain a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia – the most ancient thread in our national fabric. It's about taking us all into the future. It's about nation building.



JUMBUNNA: A PLACE TO MEET AND TALK

Located in the heart of the city and at the centre of UTS, Jumbunna is the little place within the big place where our students belong.

Our students aren't one of tens of thousands; they are highly valued individuals. We've worked hard to get them here and it's our job to make sure they not only stay with us, but they thrive with us.

Our Student Services team help you settle in to uni life in first year and beyond. They understand the tools needed to achieve academic success and overall wellbeing at uni and are dedicated to supporting you through any challenges.

Jumbunna Learning Assistance is designed to build the skills and knowledge you already possess. The program assists in the development of academic communication and mathematics. It is delivered via individual tuition or in small groups and is regularly reviewed to ensure it meets the changing demands of study.

Our programs

There are many pathways to university. Whether you're a current student or mature aged, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can apply for undergraduate degrees at UTS.

Direct Entry Program

Our Direct Entry Program offers prospective students an opportunity to show their capabilities through a testing and interview process.

Unistart

UNISTART is our enabling program.

INSEARCH Pathways

Our UTS:INSEARCH pathways offer scholarships to study Foundation Studies or Diplomas.

We provide a bespoke experience for students wanting to engage with our university. Our Outreach Officers guide you through the many options available depending on which stage you are at with your learning.

Successful completion of a UTS pathway program means you may be offered a place at UTS in the undergraduate course of your choice.

We want to help you find the right course to suit your needs. If that course isn't at UTS, we can still help. It's important to us that we help you find your way.



OUR PEOPLE



SHAUN PATTINSON is an Indigenous Student Service Officer at Jumbunna. Shaun grew up in Sydney. His family is from Kempsey and he is a proud Dunghutti man.

For Shaun, the best part of his job is working with students. "It's amazing to see them move from being timid at the beginning to a point where they're taking on the world. It's great."

His advice to new students: Don't miss classes!

Housing

Moving away from home can be stressful. Jumbunna and UTS:Housing staff have the knowledge to assist students in adapting to a new environment and a new city. Talk to us about the services we offer to assist you to apply for housing, pay your bond and settle in.

Financial support

The UTS Financial Assistance Service assists with the practical and financial aspects of university life.

They offer 'near immediate' financial assistance on student loans to eligible students. There are also many scholarships available to all students.

Our computer access program allows students in need to access free computers.

UTS:Jumbunna

Phone: (Toll Free) 1800 064312

Facebook: facebook.com/UTSJumbunnaIHL

Email: atsirecruitment@uts.edu.au

Website: uts.edu.au/future-students/indigenous

CONNECT





"You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain."

KYGIM IS FROM KEMPSEY AND IS STUDYING LAW
AT UTS

I got interested in law at school. I loved criminal law. I thought, "Yes! I'm going to do corporate law, I'm going to get rich!" But when I started uni I changed my views. Now I'm like, "Nah, not for me!" Studying gives you insight into what your career might be like. The subjects really show you the way.

Now I've got a passion for juvenile justice. The media has played a big role in this. When I see things on Facebook about young people's interaction with the law, say a video of a young person getting tasered by the police, I want to do something about it.

I took last year off. I had a lot of stuff going on. I think I took the wimp decision going back home to Kempsey, but I needed a break. I'd been at boarding school then a summer internship then I went straight to uni. It was full on. I've come back now with a fresh mind. I feel really good.

I have two younger brothers and a younger sister, so I really need to stick it out. They're a big part of me doing what I'm doing. I want to show them they can.

University of Western Sydney

UWS: BRINGING KNOWLEDGE TO LIFE

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) is one of the most culturally diverse universities in Australia with more than 100 cultural and ethnic backgrounds represented in our student community and over 20% of staff coming from diverse backgrounds. UWS has six campuses spread across Greater Western Sydney – Bankstown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Nirimba (Blacktown), Parramatta, and Penrith. We bring positive change to the lives of our students and provide a source of creativity and new knowledge that is relevant, robust and contributes to individual and community development. UWS is known for its practical degrees. We offer students a healthy balance between theory and practical work, preparing students for the work force. Our graduates are renowned both locally and internationally for their enthusiasm, commitment, competency, and hard work.



WE OFFER a range of degrees in Arts, Business, Communication Arts, Engineering, IT, Forensics, Health Science, Nursing, Midwifery, Sport Science, Physiotherapy, Law, Medicine, Policing, Criminology, Psychology, Science, Social Science, Teaching, Tourism and Urban Planning. We offer two block-mode degrees for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: • Bachelor of Education (Primary) • Bachelor of Community and Social Development.

These degrees allow students to study and work/raise a family at the same time. Students attend four to six residential schools per year, each for one to two weeks in duration. We also offer undergraduate medicine. Each year UWS allocates spaces for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery Medicine. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are strongly encouraged to apply.

OUR VISION FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION We are committed to the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and reconciliation. We aim to provide education that is intellectually, socially and culturally rewarding. We have the opportunity and responsibility to work together to achieve these goals. We also ensure all Australians have a greater awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture by making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content available to all students.



BADANAMI CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support centre at the University of Western Sydney. It was established in 2006 to help support and enhance educational opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

We know that studying can sometimes be an overwhelming and daunting experience, that is why we have a Badanami Centre located on each campus to help support you. In each centre there are staff members, tutors and current students ready to assist you in all areas during your time at university.

Badanami is a culturally safe environment where you can mingle, make friends, get help from tutors for assignments, gain advice on overseas exchange, and study with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people like yourself.

Facilities: Free printing, access to computers, support services, areas to eat, and lounges.

Our programs

Alternative Entry

The Badanami Alternative Entry Program is a pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wanting to study at UWS. Students who do not have an HSC, other qualifications or work experience, or have an ATAR lower than required for their chosen course, can apply to study at UWS through this program. The Badanami Alternative Entry Program is a two-day test that is offered in June, November and January of each year. To apply, call 1300 897 669, email study@uws.edu.au or visit uws.edu.au/badanamiadmissions



OUR PEOPLE



JO GALEA is an Indigenous Project Officer in the UWS Schools Engagement Office. She's a proud Wiradjuri woman who grew up in Western Sydney.

She coordinates programs targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at both primary and high school.

"I enjoy my job immensely because I get to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages."

Her advice to new students: knowledge is power and education can take you anywhere.

Housing

UWS offers a wide range of accommodation on each campus with high quality, affordable options. UWS Village provides a choice of catered and self-catered rooms on most campuses, from dormitories and residential halls to cottages, townhouses and villas. Rooms may be furnished with beds, desks, fridges and more.

Financial support

UWS offers scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, which reflect our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities. We support students who want to give back to their families and be leaders in their community.

- ▶ Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarship
- ▶ John R Marsden Memorial Scholarship for Indigenous Students – \$5,000 pa for duration of undergraduate degree
- ▶ Soukup Memorial Scholarship for Indigenous Medical Students – \$15,000 a year for duration of degree (\$5,000 stipend and \$10,000 towards accommodation expenses)
- ▶ Transport NSW Indigenous Alternative Pathway Scholarship – \$15,000 pa for three years
- ▶ Transport NSW Indigenous Scholarship – \$15,000 pa for three years
- ▶ UWS Indigenous Smart Start Grant – \$2,000
- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Achievement Scholarship - \$5,000 pa for up to 5 years

uws.edu.au/scholarships


CONNECT

UWS CONTACT SERVICE CENTRE

Phone: (Toll Free) 1300 897 669

Email: study@uws.edu.au

Website: uws.edu.au/badanami



“I didn’t think uni was for me, but having a go at so many things has brought me to where I am today.”

MATTHEW IS A WIRADJURI BOY FROM WARREN AND IS IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF A DOUBLE BACHELOR DEGREE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY AT UWS – CAMPBELLTOWN

Over the past few years I’ve lost friends and family to cancer. I want to do something about it by working in cancer research or oncology.

When I was growing up in Warren I got offered a scholarship through the Evonne Goolagong Tennis for School program. I moved to Melbourne on my own, and that’s when everything opened up for me. Eventually doing 25 hours training a week as well as school became overwhelming. I lost my passion for tennis, finished school and moved in with my nan in Campbelltown.

I did a TAFE course and worked as a personal trainer. That’s when my cousin started pushing me to go to uni. She’s got a Masters degree and runs her own business. It took her a whole year to convince me because I didn’t have the money and thought I wouldn’t have a life. Then we went into Badanami, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit at UWS, and chatted about options – it went from there.

Ever since, I’ve been doing my own thing and trying to do my best.

YOU DECIDE

What are your reasons for studying?

You may not know what you want to do or what you want to be. However an education is important whether you stay in school, head to uni or explore other pathways like TAFE.



EDUCATION CREATES OPPORTUNITY

Get a good job. Have more choices in life. Learn about yourself. Find out what else is out there. Provide a lifestyle for you and your family.

You don't need to have all the answers right now. Most adults will tell you they are still not sure where they're headed in life!

Everyone has something they're good at or interested in. Start there. Talk to your teachers, family and friends about the special talents they see in you.

Google the areas of work or study that interest you. Consider some of the following questions and see where your passions lie.

What are your best qualities?

.....

What do you care about?

.....

What are you good at?

.....

What have you done that you're proud of?

.....

Who has influenced you?

.....

Who do you respect? Why do you respect them?

.....

Who are your heroes?

.....

How would you like to contribute to the world?

.....

What would you do with your time if you won the lotto and didn't have to worry about money?

.....

COMMUNITY: OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

If you are a parent, guardian, teacher or careers advisor you're probably wondering what the young person in your care's options are and how you can help them make the right choices.

A higher level of education will ensure they have better employment prospects.

When considering a future career your student should be guided by the things they are interested in and enjoy.

For example, if they like to help people, nursing, dentistry, law, IT, teaching or environmental studies may be good options. Help them think about all their strengths and where they align.



YOU CAN HELP YOUR STUDENTS

- ▶ sit down with them and make a list of the study areas and activities they are interested in or good at, both at school and outside school – you can use the previous page as a starting point
- ▶ connect their interests and abilities with related jobs and careers
- ▶ encourage them to seek work experience or undertake volunteer work in areas they are interested in. You can help by contacting friends and family about work experience opportunities their employers might offer
- ▶ suggest they look at job ads to see what qualifications are required
- ▶ explore with them the courses offered in the study areas they are interested in. You can contact the unis in this brochure to organise a tour and a chat with their staff

- ▶ students completing years 11 and 12 will benefit from examining their options earlier to help them choose suitable HSC subjects.

Most HSC subjects will be aligned with a uni course of study. They may also need to study a specific HSC subject to be considered for a place.

University is much larger than school with different study and learning patterns and a wide range of social and support networks. If your student would like to go to university straight after school they can apply to study through a variety of alternative entry programs. These programs do not rely solely on an ATAR. Instead they offer an opportunity for the student to show their capacity for tertiary study through an interview process.

Contact each university directly for more information about their programs and services.

makeyourmark.edu.au/parents-schools



I'D LIKE TO GO TO UNI: WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

How to apply

You'll need to apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) as well as directly to the university. Contact each university in this brochure to find out how.

Which uni should I go to?

There are many things to consider when choosing the uni that's right for you. Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students start with the course they want to study and look at where it is offered. Others look at the physical campus and think about how they'll feel travelling and studying there. Some consider the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit and the services they offer, while some look at scholarships, housing and financial support. This brochure gives you a great overview. Directly contact the universities that interest you for more information.

Can I afford uni?

Don't let money be an obstacle. Costs vary depending on what you are studying, but there is a lot of financial help available.

You don't have to pay upfront fees. The Higher Education Loan Program (HECS-HELP) means you can defer your uni fees and pay them back when you are employed full-time and earn over a certain amount of money – you pay it back in small amounts.

You can access Abstudy payments, which offer a living allowance, incidental allowance and a fare allowance to travel home during the year.

Every uni has scholarships and grants to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students focus on study rather than money. Some also offer free services such as study skills programs, computer labs, meals, printing, and counselling.

How do I get a scholarship?

Each uni offers a range of different scholarships. The staff at your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit can help you choose one that is suited to you and guide you through the application process. Most scholarships require a formal application, which involves completing an application form. There is no requirement to pay a scholarship back.

indigenousscholarships.com.au

I'm concerned about marks at school

The mainstream school system doesn't acknowledge that we all learn differently. At uni you're encouraged to find a way of learning that suits you by exploring your interests and passions. That's why universities offer alternative entry programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

No ATAR?

Perhaps you took subjects that don't count towards an ATAR or you didn't complete high school? If you apply through an alternative entry program, your ATAR will not be the deciding factor. You will have an interview and meet the staff on campus to see if uni suits you. (Your travel and accommodation for this process may be paid by the university).

Where will I live?

Every uni offers a range of accommodation options to suit varying needs and budgets either on campus or nearby. Many also offer subsidised accommodation or accommodation scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

If you live in the Sydney region, the universities in this brochure are easily accessed by public transport. This means you can stay at home while you study your degree.

Moving away from my family

When you consider the long-term benefits of a degree, you can't deny that a few years away at uni will set you up for a lifetime of opportunity.

There are many employment opportunities that are not available without a degree. After graduating, you'll be able to live your life the way you want. You can return to your community and give back to your family.

You won't be lonely. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit on campus will be like your second family. Everyone there wants to support you and see you succeed.

At some universities you can also choose to study online, which means you won't need to leave your community. Or you can attend in 'block-mode' where you come to campus for condensed periods of time throughout the year.

Choosing a career

You don't need to know all the answers. Most people change careers two or three times during their life. Some adults still don't know what they want to do with their life! Uni is an opportunity to learn about yourself, your culture and your strengths. If you have faith in the journey, you'll be rewarded.

Am I ready?

It's never too late to go to uni. Always know that uni is an option, no matter how old you are. Uni will always be there and there will always be a community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people eager to welcome you.

Education means you can choose. Choose where you live, where you work, how you contribute to your community and how you support your family. It means you can seek long-lasting and fulfilling employment.

A degree teaches you to look for solutions.

Completing a degree shows employers you can manage your time well, meet deadlines and are committed to seeing things through.

At uni you'll also get opportunities to practise what you're learning in the classroom through cadetships, paid placements and industry internships.

A university degree helps you gain skills that will not only set you up for a fantastic career, but enable you to create a life where anything you dream is possible.

[makeyourmark.edu.au/info/
aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-
students](https://makeyourmark.edu.au/info/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-students)

(MAKE
YOUR
MARK)





"In 2013 we had our first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Charlie Perkins scholarship holder graduate from Cambridge University in the UK. She was awarded a Distinction in her Masters degree in which she ranked in the top 10 for her year. This is an incredible achievement for someone who was told in year 10 they should not continue to year 12.

I, like many others, believe this is an all too common experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Despite the odds, time and time again we have shown how successful we can be.

I encourage you to achieve to your full potential. Finish high school, understand your options and aim for university."

Dr Tom Calma

Dr Tom Calma is a member of the Kungarakana and Iwaidja tribal groups in Northern Territory. He has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs at a community, state, national and international level, worked in the public sector for 40 years and is currently on a number of boards and committees focusing on rural and remote Australian health, education and economic development. In 2012 Dr Calma was awarded an Order of Australia and named ACT Australian of the Year 2013. Dr Calma is the first Indigenous male to be appointed to a university Chancellor position in 164 years.



(MAKE YOUR MARK)
Your life & further education
makeyourmark.edu.au

Bridges to Higher Education is a partnership of the University of Technology, Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney and the Australian Catholic University which aims to boost the participation of communities underrepresented in higher education. This program is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.