

Claudia Bryant

“The main reason I chose to study a Bachelor of Rural Science was because it allowed me to pursue my interest in both agriculture and science. I had always been fascinated by how things work and solving problems which drew me towards science, and from growing up on a property I had an interest in how science could be applied to improve agricultural performance.

Towards the end of high school, I became involved in showing cattle which inspired me to pursue further education in agriculture. I chose Rural Science because I was mainly interested in beef production, but I felt it was important to understand plant/pasture production and the process of the entire system. Rural Science puts a large emphasis on understanding agricultural systems from a scientific perspective and all the way up to influences on Australian and global agriculture. I saw this as an opportunity to explore and increase my knowledge in several areas that would be useful in contributing to the agricultural industry in the future.

I chose to study at UNE because when I was at high school I had been involved with the university through the UNE GRASS Scholarship and many of my mentors were alumni of UNE. Through these experiences I decided that I would pursue studies in Rural Science whilst residing in Robb College as I had heard great reviews of both.

I am the current recipient of the Western Local Land Services Russel Harland Scholarship. As a part of this scholarship I will be commencing a Senior Field Officer position with Western Local Land Services in Broken Hill post-graduation. In this position I will be working as a Research Officer on a GPS Collaring Project in collaboration with NSW DPI's Vertebrate Pest Research Unit. Throughout university I played sports, worked on a property and was involved in committees such as the Rural Science Undergraduate Society (RSUS) and Robb College Rural Focus Committee.

The key to balancing these activities was careful time management, starting assignments early and knowing when to take a break. I would plan my week in advance and set manageable goals to be completed each day before engaging in other activities. If unplanned activities came up, I would reshuffle my plans and work harder the next day to get back on track. Generally, I would study during the day, play sport in the afternoon and spend my evenings with friends. It was a good balance!

The most enjoyable part of my studies was attending Robb College. I resided at Robb for 4 years and would highly recommend it to anyone coming to UNE. Being in college allowed me to be a part of sport teams, extracurricular activities, networking opportunities and provided academic support all while making lifelong friends. The Robb College community created a home away from home for me and played a large role in preparing me to be an effective member in the agriculture sector post-graduation.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience of UNE and would recommend UNE to future students. I found the college experience highly valuable and due to the smaller class sizes there was a lot of opportunity for academic help and personalised learning. UNE also offered many opportunities for academic support through scholarships of which I was the recipient of the North West Local Land Service Scholarship, Robb College Foundation Leadership Scholarship and the Carole and Stan Droder scholarship offered by UNE. These were extremely helpful in assisting with my studies. UNE also enabled me to complete a once in a lifetime overseas study opportunities in Peru, Cambodia and Thailand. All I can add is for future students to take the leap and enrol! You won't regret it!” - Claudia Bryant, Bachelor of Rural Science

Interested in taking the leap and enrolling in a degree in Agriculture? Check out the link for more info: <https://okt.to/9VrOhv>