

Effie Ferguson

"Something that surprised me was how well I could do academically when I focused and put in the work. I went to school at Dunedoo Central School and had only 8 students in my year 12 class. I was the only student who went to university, and in comparison to most of the friends I made at university, I achieved a fairly average ATAR. Throughout my entire degree I worked part-time at Practical Systems, played sport and took on various roles at college. I think I was most surprised and proud of how I managed my time to do well academically whilst balancing a social life with everything else uni can throw at you!

I have always been interested in agriculture growing up on a cattle/cropping property near Dunedoo and was interested in studying a degree that would allow me to continue living and working in rural Australia. I have always had the desire to learn about the science underlying different agricultural enterprises as well as the processes and skills required to manage a farm business. A double degree in Agriculture/Business was perfect for me as it covered the core elements of both these areas in depth.

For the first 3 years of my degree, I had no specific idea of what job I wanted to do. In the final year, I studied 3 particular units (Meat Technology, Feedlot Management and Agricultural Consulting) that helped me shape the direction i'd like to follow and I am now currently applying for jobs in these areas.

I studied on-campus, however some of the units I was required to study were only offered online, and sometimes I chose to study particular units online instead of on-campus to give myself more flexibility to work part-time. I completed the first three years of my degree living in Robb College, one of the university residential colleges, before moving into a share house for my final year. The most enjoyable part of my time at UNE by far was the three years I spent at college and the friends I made there.

If you're going to study on campus, I recommend you should live on campus too. The residential colleges are designed to support you both academically and pastorally, and provide so much more than a place to live. The friends you'll make will be just as valuable as the degree you leave with. The other word of advice i'd give future students is to treat your studies like a job, rather than a lifestyle. The harder you work, the better you'll do and the quicker you will be finished.

My greatest passion is being an active participant in whatever communities I become involved with throughout my life. Whether it's a work, college, uni or hometown community, the more involved I am, the more opportunities arise, and this is something I can apply no matter where I am or what I end up doing. My current goal is to assist with the farm business through this extended period of drought, then in the new year to find graduate employment."

- Effie Ferguson, Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business

We love highlighting our dedicated students at UNE! Effie received various awards during her studies, and we congratulate her on her graduation and all of her achievements!

Her awards as follows:

UNE Landmark Scholarship (2019)

The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl, runner-up 2019

Joint DUX of Robb College & Meritorious Academic Achievement – GPA between 6-7 (2018)

Meritorious Academic Achievement – Distinction average (2017)

Meritorious Academic Achievement – Distinction average (2016)

If you are interested in the degree Effie studied, check out the following link here

<https://okt.to/1u2azs>