

STUDENT STORY



Kate Lynch

Graduating 2022

University: University of Sydney

Degree: Masters of Regional and Urban Planning

Why did you choose the area of study you are completing?

I wanted to up-skill. I have been in the industry for years but deciding to do my Masters was complimentary to my current career. It provides me a wider scope for employment opportunities and will give me more flexibility in where and how I work. I had previously felt nervous when presenting my work to review panels for approval as I had the experience and knowledge but was missing the accreditation. Now I can present with confidence and not be under potential scrutiny or doubt myself.

How has your study impacted your current career?

I wouldn't be working in my current role without it. I am working for the Shoalhaven City Council as a strategic planner and I was successful in my application due to the commitment of completing my Masters. So studying has been such an important part of my journey for the last 3 years. It was all consuming and I have had no time for anything else but definitely worth the commitment. I have so many more options now for both on-going employment and freelance opportunities and increased my earning capacity.

How important is having the CUC in your local region and why?

It was everything! I honestly don't know if I could have completed my study without it. The CUC is the reason I succeeded and have the job I do. As mentioned before, I only got it because of my education commitment so I am so thankful it was here to provide me with the support I needed. I was struggling to get to lectures on time due to travel distances/work commitments and would often be watching them on my phone in the car somewhere it was ridiculous and doomed from the start. The CUC has enabled me to achieve flexible and manageable time tabling between work and home to fit everything in.

In what ways did the CUC support you during your studies. What did it mean for you?

Space and technology. It really is a fantastic layout. Such a variety of work spaces means you can always find somewhere quiet to work away from everyone or work socially if you prefer. Quite often I would have my assignment open on my laptop, be watching a lecture on the wide screens provided and have a word doc open at the same time taking notes, can you imagine me achieving that in my car?! The technology has had an enormous impact on my efficiency and ability to multi-task which is important when you have limited time. It also forces you to commit for a duration and avoid the distractions of studying from home, so it has been essential for my productivity.

What advice would you give to other people considering study to up-skill that are hesitant about the lack of time or resources they have?

Do it! You will be surprised what you can achieve. Just apply and take it from there. Commit to the lowest course load and see how it goes, you can always take on more as you become comfortable. It is important to stay current in your career. Study and keeping your skills and knowledge up-to-date means greater job prospects. Just go for it!