

KATHERINE PADILLA

FASHION & TEXTILES MERCHANDISING, RMIT

Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Mathematics: Pre-Methods, Product Design and Technology - Textiles, P.E. for Girls, Art, Religion/CEPD.
- Year 11: English, Mathematical Methods, Studio Art, Religion, Business Management, Psychology
- Year 12: English, Mathematical Methods, Business Management, Media

Why did you choose these subjects? In Years 10 and 11 I chose some subjects based on how much I knew I would enjoy them but throughout it I realised some were rather hard or I found myself not interested in them anymore. I started thinking about what I wanted to study after school and then narrowed my subjects based on what I really needed to study and what I didn't. I originally thought I would study a Bachelor of Commerce so I did Mathematical Methods and Business Management but the course I ended up studying only had the prerequisite of English.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? I read the Senior Course Guide to see my choices and went to all the meetings to talk to teachers that were teaching the subjects I was interested in so I could find out if those classes would be good for me.

What is your course like? My course has a lot of components involved to it. Classes have textbook and hands-on work such as going to a store and doing a window display, doing our own research, and finding certain fabrics. There's a lot that has to be done outside of the classroom as well as work in class. It is definitely not boring as there's always a lot to do but it's not overwhelming either.

Fashion and textiles merchandising is very full on, it actually does not have that many classes but it does take majority of your time. There's so much work to do but if you're passionate about fashion then it doesn't really feel that horrible working on projects and submitting folios. I love the people that you get to meet, from other students to teachers to people that work in the industry. The fashion world is all about making contacts and you get to meet cool people.

Describe a day in the life of your course? There's usually a lecture in the morning at 9.30am and then a class (excell, logistics, marketing, visual merchandising, fashion branding, etc.) I usually finish uni around 3pm.

What are some of the best parts of your course? I love the opportunities that I get from my course like study trips. I have undertaken exchange programs to China and New York. I've also loved the opportunity to work with industry partners.

What advice can you offer students who are considering applying for this course? Do mathematics and business management at school because it really does help, and maybe a textile class because you have to learn about fabrics, Photoshop, Illustrator and those programs if possible. It helps with the course. Attend the open days for RMIT and find out about the course. Always say yes to everything and make contacts, it's all about who you know in this industry.

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course?

- **Mathematics:** was used in my Excel and Fashion Mathematics classes
- **Business Management:** prepared me for subjects in logistics and supply chain management. It involved the same theories and processes just fashion related. I would recommend business management and maybe a textiles course.
- **Textiles:** helped for the design subjects
- **English:** was good as you need to know how to write professional documents, essays and also make your vocabulary and grammar sound profession.

Future career goals: I want to work in digital media for a fashion brand. I've also been looking into the events side of fashion lately and would love to do more with that.

Course information: Associate Degree in Fashion and Textiles Merchandising, RMIT, <http://bit.ly/1lxnd5K>