

MITCH CLARK



ACUPUNCTURE

ENDEAVOUR COLLEGE OF NATURAL HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: Switzerland on Exchange. English, German, Physical Education, Philosophy, Mathematics, Biology, Physics.
- Year 12: English, History, Psychology, Further Mathematics, German.

Why did you choose these subjects? I chose my Year 10 subjects because I wanted to be a lawyer, and those subjects were prerequisites. I didn't get a choice of subjects in Year 11, such was the Swiss school system. In Year 12, I didn't know what I wanted to do at university, so I picked 1 subject from each faculty (Science, Mathematics, Humanities, LOTE) to keep my options open.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? The Senior Course Guide and the VTAC guide, but eventually just followed my parents' advice.

What were your courses like? The Bachelor degree was a heavy course load: I averaged 28 contact hours per week, and that required 84 personal study hours per week. The course was mostly exams and practical examinations. There was a fairly high fail rate. The Internship was really hard. It was over 3 months but the hours were long – I averaged 12 hours per day and Sundays were the only day off.

The Masters degree, I did part-time. It was 70 contact hours per semester (done in 2 x 4-day workshops at the beginning and end of the semester). It required only about 4 personal study hours per week, but the assignments were killer. The average length was about 3000-4000 words, but the research components were 6000+. It took several weeks of solid work to knock off an assignment.

What were some of the best parts of the course? As part of the Bachelor degree, we were introduced to all the different specialties we could pursue after graduation, which put us at an advantage to other courses that only really taught general practice. I was able to decide that sport was my 'specialty to be' fairly early and was able to organise an internship and a Masters Degree to make it happen straight away

How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course? It would've been better for me to have completed Chemistry and Biology in Year 12 – every health science degree is very heavy in those two subjects. Having completed Psychology though, meant that I understood the scientific method, and statistics etc., which put me in good stead.

What are you doing now in your graduate position? I own and operate my own sports clinic with acupuncturists, massage therapists and trainers. I work with amateur and semi-professional athletes and love it.

What do you enjoy about your job? I get to see instant results with clients that get their injuries fixed, feel less pain and are able to get better results in their sport. That's really rewarding. I also get to meet a few sporting celebrity idols, which is pretty cool. Lucky last, as the practice owner, lots of sports companies give me free stuff in the hope that I advertise their brand to my clients, which means I get cool toys to make me better in the sports I participate in.

Course information: Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture), Endeavour College of Natural Health, <http://bit.ly/1Mrg8nK>