

STEPHANIE MCINNES

PSYCHOLOGY & FORENSIC SCIENCE

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: Literature, Biology, General Mathematics, Legal Studies, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English, Further Mathematics, Legal Studies, Health and Human Development, Sociology.

Why did you choose these subjects? Mostly because I was really interested in these subjects. I also always wanted to go into the Law/Forensic field so these subjects fitted in with that.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? I spoke to the College Career Adviser as well as my teachers and parents. I was a bit lost with what subjects I should choose and the Career Adviser was able to help me sort it out. Make sure to ask your teachers lots of questions so you can get the most information that you can when making your decisions.

What was your course like? I loved my course! It was a 3-year Bachelor degree, which focused mainly on psychology subjects, with forensic subjects tying in with it, such as Forensic Science, Criminology and Forensic Psychology. There was a LOT of content but I found it very interesting. Assignments were mostly things like essays and lab reports which are great if you want to do post graduate studies in the area. I also did some sociology electives, which broke up the psychology a bit but also tied in really well with it. It gave another perspective about how to look at people and society, which I think is important.

What did you love about your course? I loved the forensic units in the course. They were what I have always been interested in so they were very interesting to study. Some of the units were a bit different to what I expected (they are not like the crime shows on TV). There were also things like having to do a lot of stats and science techniques. There have been some great opportunities that have come about while doing my course. These include completing the Certificate IV in Mental Health for a reduced price and participating in an aged care volunteer program.

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course? They definitely prepared me for my studies and course, by giving a general overview of the areas. I originally wanted to do straight Law and Forensics, but I didn't get the marks I needed. However, I love psychology even though I didn't do any psychology subjects at school. They are not prerequisites so it doesn't matter!

Stephanie is now completing a Masters of Criminology.

Course information: Bachelor of Arts (Psychology/Forensic Science), Swinburne University, <http://bit.ly/29kxROD>