

KELSEY LEFOE

FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, Media, Further Mathematics, Studio Arts, Religion and Society.
- Year 12: English, Literature, Media, Further Mathematics, History.

Why did you choose these subjects? Some because I was good at them, others because I liked them. To get assistance with choosing subjects I spoke to teachers I trusted and the College Careers Adviser. I also researched my options online.

What was your course like? I have a Bachelor of Film and Digital Media specialising as a Producer. I studied at Deakin University in Melbourne. My course was extremely eye opening, consuming and brilliant. Deakin have a highly practical film course, which is perfect for fundamental filmmaking. They also give you resources for external learning, to specialise in specific areas that may not be covered in the technical process of film i.e., business orientated areas).

What did you love about your course? I loved the world it opened my eyes up to. I stepped into a place where everyone I was surrounded by was unashamedly obsessed with the same thing, making films. Being around people just as passionate as myself drove me to do great things within the industry.

What were some of the highlights of your course?

- A week-long shoot at Lake Bolac with the best cast and crew I have ever had.
- Crying on the floor when I found out I got 100% for a French film I shot in second year.
- Shooting a documentary in Borneo for a couple of weeks about an indigenous tribe losing their heritage to Westernisation.
- Having my final project screened at the Astor Theatre with my peers, and selling every seat in the house.

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course? English and Literature were the two I fell back on most while at uni. Selling a script, an idea or my own talent and getting people to do what you need them to do is paramount when producing films. Which leaves my written communication skills as my greatest tool. And, of course, Media studies goes without saying.

What advice can you offer students considering studying the course? Don't do this course because you think it's going to be a bludge. It's not. I've seen hundreds drop out because they did just that. Go to a few open days and figure out if private or public uni is for you (each have their pro's and con's. If you want to go private, work on your folio). Chat to as many people as you can who have studied filmmaking as well, this will give you a good idea as to what you can expect.

But realistically, if you want to make films, then you can just go and do it. You can make it work no matter what happens. Half the crews I hire are middle-aged guys who left school halfway through and went straight into the industry purely because they loved it. You just have to work very hard and make clever friends in high places.

Course information: Bachelor of Film & Digital Media Studies, Deakin University, <http://bit.ly/29prl3V>