

JACKSON GRANT

SCREEN & MEDIA, RMIT

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, Religion, Visual Communication Design, Studio Arts, Media.
- Year 12: English, Studio Arts, Media

Why did you choose these subjects? Initially I thought Visual Communication Design was more digital-based, after realising it had a lot to do with mediums I wasn't aware of my first thought was to drop the subject. After some thought I realised it was probably best for me to experiment in more than just Photoshop practices. Drawing, even just using a ruler felt like I was diving in the deep end, but I'm glad I didn't play it safe with what I was used to that year.

Studio Arts and Media speak for themselves, I had Jess Gray and Janice Klappert as teachers for those two classes, and I couldn't have asked for a better learning environment from them both. Even though each subject felt so natural to me, there were briefs to follow, deadlines to attend to, even group assignments I wasn't prone to. All my efforts were prioritised highly to these expressive subjects during my time at CCW, that I probably spent more time in the arts office annoying the teachers than I did doing my homework

What resources did you use to choose subjects? I looked up to a few students in the years above me who were delving into a wide variation of artistic formats, so getting a glimpse of what they were allowed to take on during Arts Week got me hyped for what I could showcase in Years 11 and 12. I remember taking an interview with the College Careers Adviser and a Learning Mentor who recommended I drop Visual Communication Design for Year 12, as having three portfolio driven subjects would take a toll on my stress levels during final year (trust me, there were many!)

What was your course like? I am no longer studying at university, but upon completing a Certificate IV of Screen and Media at RMIT I can tell you that it is very television-based. A good course for media focused students to seek out if you're wanting to follow onto a diploma where you can get a little more creative.

What were some of the highlights of the course? I'm always up for a final film, and working with a team instead of doing everything yourself was so foreign to me. I used to think being a standalone perfectionist was the right idea, but I wouldn't have it any other way with a team on board. Each student had to collaborate with their peers to produce a short documentary on a Melbourne based matter; this involved sourcing an individual for camera, sound, post-production, producer/director and so forth.

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course? My heart was set on a gap year; this felt integral as I took the move down to Melbourne day one of 2014. In saying this, I wasn't thinking about university at the time. Upon applying for the certificate though, I was interviewed by a lecturer who immediately noticed 'Media' and 'Studio Arts' on the top of my application. From there I went on to prove that I could meet criteria and deadlines, whilst keeping my touch on each assignment.

What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals? Get your foot in the door, even fake it until you make it if you have to. I'm now living in Melbourne and have survived purely off of the money I make through photography/videography. Most of the time the creative field, regardless of location, is driven through community and who you know. Try not to compare your processes to others, just speak up and show initiative, it'll go a long way.

What advice can you offer students considering studying screen and media? For those wanting to study Media or Studio Arts, don't be afraid to ask those in the years above you about what is expected. From memory the workload was full on, so know that commitment plays a sturdy role. Be invested in attending Arts Week, this intrigued me to move forward creatively. Be open to excursions, this allowed me to network and realise that there are individuals all around you who have their own desirable outcome.

Course information - Certificate IV in Screen and Media, RMIT, <http://bit.ly/293grbR>