

INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

Meet KATARINA



→ **What first sparked your interest in the traineeship and how did you find out about the program?**

I first heard about the program through my sister, who had successfully completed the IGNITE Traineeship in 2022. What sparked my interest was the chance to gain real-world experience while still studying, something that felt incredibly valuable and relevant to where I wanted to take my career.

→ **What made you apply?**

The structure of the traineeship, combining work with study, seemed like the perfect opportunity to build confidence and enhance my technical skills. Additionally, the chance to work on real projects, develop professionally, and contribute to meaningful outcomes was a major motivation.

→ **What department are you currently in?**

I am currently in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership where I am contributing in my role as the Project Officer.

→ **Can you outline some of your daily tasks that you carried out in your role as an IGNITE trainee?**

My daily tasks included responding to emails, managing calendars, assisting with event coordination, and updating internal databases. I also had the opportunity to shadow senior staff and attend team meetings, which exposed me to University systems and processes.

→ **Can you please tell us about your study schedule and how you manage both work and study?**

Time management was key. I maintained a detailed calendar and prioritised deadlines for both work and study.

I set aside focused blocks for coursework weekly, and I communicated regularly with my supervisors to ensure flexibility around more complex assessment periods.

→ **In what capacity has Western supported your professional development?**

Western Sydney University was incredibly supportive throughout the entire traineeship. I was offered one-on-one

staff mentoring and weekly check-ins. I've also had the chance to network with other trainees and staff across the university, which has broadened my perspective.

→ **Have your employment goals changed since commencing the traineeship? If so, what was the biggest influence?**

Yes, my employment goals have definitely evolved since starting the traineeship. Initially, I was focused on gaining general administrative experience and completing the Certificate III in Business. But as I've become more involved in team initiatives and cross-departmental tasks, I've discovered a real interest in project-based work.

→ **What was your biggest fear when deciding to apply to the traineeship?**

My biggest fear was not feeling "ready" or qualified enough. But once I started, I realised that the program is designed to support growth from day one. Everyone's learning, and that's the point.

→ **What opportunities do you believe this traineeship presents for its participants?**

It opens doors, not just to employment, but to confidence, community, and a sense of purpose. You gain practical skills, a qualification, and a network of people who genuinely want to see you succeed.

→ **If you had one piece of advice to give to upcoming trainees, what would it be?**

You're more capable than you think. You don't need to have all the answers from day one.

What matters most is being open to learning, asking thoughtful questions, and making the most of every opportunity that comes your way. Growth comes from showing up and giving it a go.

For more information or to register your interest, [click here.](#)