

Postgraduate Information Evenings 2020- *Built Environment Transcript*

Western - Sandy: Alright everyone, thanks very much for attending. Tonight's Built Environment Postgrad Information session. Will I will kick off now.

Firstly, I just like to read an acknowledgement of country is with respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as the Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands in the Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

Okay um well tonight, you're very lucky to have Dr. Matt Stevens, who is the Associate Dean Engagement for the School of Built Environment. Matt teachers in the Post Graduate program and I know Matt looks forward to meeting each of you as you continue academic journey here at Western Sydney University and Matt and I are here to answer any of your questions tonight.

Matt Stevens: Alexander's with us tonight and we know him by Sandy. That's the how the family calls him here at Western Sydney. He works here as a Contact Service Officer and as you can tell he has a lot of enthusiasm for what he does and of course, he's a graduate of from our postgraduate program here at Western Sydney. Sandy, you probably never volunteer this until you asked him, but he he'll be going off docs for a little bit, but he certainly is going to be (I don't mean to embarrass you online). Anyway, his duties are to help you and I know you'll be proactive and listening closely to anything you might ask, or any concerns you might have. So do rely on Sandy.

Western - Sandy: Just before we go through anything today. I am just going to quickly take you through how this sessions operating, the sessions and the breakouts. If you do attend a breakout session after this main session. They are being recorded and participation is optional. Okay, so if you do participate in the in the session at all with your, your video your audio transmission it's going to be automatically captured and recorded. It's going to be accessible to other participants as well on zoom. Okay, so just to keep you updated there.

So the agenda of tonight and firstly, we're going to run through postgraduate studies and tell you a little bit more about what's available in the school. Then we're going to look at Western Sydney glance. So we are going to show you a little bit more about the university's response to COVID 19 and how we're dealing with that. We will then touch on some High Degree Research as well and show you the options available there. I will talk to you briefly through the application process as well. But there will be further information available back on the micro site, as well as the admissions team is he's on the call tonight for a chat function.

We will just go through fees quickly and there'll be a Q&A at the end, if you've got any questions to either put them in the chat function or wait, and you can ask us at the end. Okay. Now I want to hand over to Matt and as I said Matt guys the Associate Dean Engagement for the School Built Environment and he's going to take you through these next few slides and introduce you to the school.

Matt Stevens: Oh, Thank you Sandy Mike, Kagioglou is acting Dean of the School of Built Environment. And when you meet Mike, I think you'll find somebody who's enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about Western Sydney and the Built Environment working, he, he takes on. He is also the Dean of the Engineering school so Mike is quite a interesting and enlightened fellow to talk to a lot of fun to be around. We have others, you know, we have Payam Rahnamayiezekavat he's the Director of Academic Programs for the Construction Management program and then Xiaohua Jin is our Project Management Director of Academic Programs also, so you meet Sean I'm sure if that's your area. Ursa Komac is in Architecture, we know Architecture is Urban Transformation also. So when you hear those two words they're interchangeable.

Our next little bit of information shows that we have a significant presence in Western Sydney and the Western Sydney areas. Our enrolments in 2019 were 91 for Fire Safety Engineering, Building

Surveying is growing and it had 82 enrolments and then Bushfire protection had 44. The Master of Project Management had 60 enrolments. In 2020 we have seven enrolments so far in the Master of Architecture. We look forward to those of you that would like to talk more about architecture. Talk to Ursa I think you'll find that to be a very interesting conversation.

Next slide is that we have responded to Covid in the ways you might expect us to, not only online as we show here, but also by our protocols and our safety regimen on campus when you are required to be on campus. We're like everybody else, we're trying to convert over to a safe environment, but also meet the needs of teaching and learning for each of you.

Each student can access the learning modules and readings and assessments online. We have our system called vUWS and I'm not going to go through that a lot. Just remember the word vUWS means that you're online. I teach online with vUWS. I like it a lot, and I can tell you that in comparison with where I'm from in North America, it is a very good system. It's well coordinated, interwoven, and interlocking. I really do like the system a lot.

All of our assessments are launched online. So what's nice about that is when you take an assessment, you get a receipt. There's no mystery, and our marketing grading is fairly robust as far as feedback to you with anything that is right or maybe needs improvement, but it's a very helpful system for the learner. Another part of our outreach is that Zooms is a big part of our approach to the online teaching and Learning and it'll really help you. As a backup we have what's known as Blackboard Collaborative through vUWS and that you may use or have as part of your learning online. We do have a kind of a primary system and a backup system if there are any issues.

We've moved our final examinations online, and that should be good for the Masters level student.

And then the retention requirements. Of course, you might expect that the professional level, the ones that have maybe a license associated with them would have an attendance requirement. Your access, is fully open to the Unit coordinator's lectures online. Whoever is coordinating the class and who is teaching might be the same person or it might be a different person. But that's fully online and fully communicative through zoom and other places.

We have studio sessions that those of you are pursuing an architecture postgraduate degree might expect. There are very important ones where the teacher and the student learning is important. The critical transfer of information and ideas and experiences are important to have in a studio.

As we look at the post graduate programs at the School of built environment Western Sydney, there's really five. Some of you might be interested in building surveying, which is really in the built environment; the certifiers and the building surveyors come out of that course, and there's a couple of decades' worth of work that has gone into that. It's important to look at Western Sydney and how fast it's growing versus the rest of Australia, that area is very well done and very well represented so far. Safety engineering is a great concern, maybe a little bit more now that some of the media's picked up on a couple of things about fire safety. It's an area that really is about developing, assessing and evaluating these issues in the built environment and the buildings more than the infrastructure. Bush fire protection is very important in bushfire prone areas. We have somebody with many years of experience who's done this for a long time and also taught it for a long time, so I think if you have an interest in bush fire protection job, you'll be excited to listen to that person tonight. Project management is a course where it's not generic. We do have specific specialties, but the project management area is a system and a process and structure. And of course, people are part of that whole process of project management. So that'll be well discussed and talked through. Architecture is fairly new with us, but we're excited about it. If you hear the urban transformation label for transformation architecture, you're going to be talking about the same thing. One of the reasons that I continue to live in Australia and Sydney is the architecture here. I'm not a producer, I'm a consumer, but I really enjoy architecture in Australia.

Teaching periods. Important to note that we have lots of flexibility. We have two Summer Sessions A and B before the Christmas season and then after the end of the year. Autumn is the session that is the end July to early August. Q3, starts in July. I think you may know this already, but I just thought I'd throw it in there. Spring has a February, March, start date and runs for about 14 weeks.

The Master, Graduate Diploma, and Graduate Certificates are offered by us in all of these areas. What's important to note is that we have the opportunity for early exits. If you feel like you need to finish it, you can earn that graduate diploma, even though you are pursuing a Master. That's fairly well laid out, coordinated and well documented on how to do that. And then people have returned to school after they've earned, a Graduate Certificate to finish their Masters and that's available for you. Thank you, Sandy will take us the rest of the way.

Western - Sandy: Awesome, thanks very much Matt, really cool.

Just going to quickly talk about October 19 response. All classes have been moved online, as well as the majority of Student Services. Student central and our wellbeing services have all moved online to chat and phone functions.

In terms of our online and campus study, the university will endeavour to deliver classes, both online and on campus. But this is depending on the requirements for each unit. All of our on-campus classes will be delivered in restricted numbers to allow for social distancing.

In terms of study assistance for students, the University is committed to supporting students to ensure they can continue learning during the current pandemic, and there are academic support services available to assist students should they need them. We've also established our coronavirus support line, which is the central contact points for students and staff. They're responsible for managing and directing inquiries to the correct departments and they've provided a trusted platform for students seeking the best advice possible.

In regards to the student hardship fund, we've established this student hardship fund that assist students through the provision of grocery vouchers, loan laptops and some financial support. It has centralised the application process that's allowed for an efficient, up to about five-day turn around to assist students experiencing hardship.

Awesome so High Degree Research and our HDR courses we offer. We have a Masters of Research Master Philosophy and Dr philosophies PhDs doctorate creative arts Dr Education and Dr of Cultural Research. All of those Post Graduate Research Degrees, are handled by our Graduate Research school, you often hear it referred to as GRS. There is going to be a breakout session for those interested in that tonight. But firstly might have a talk about the Masters of Research, just quickly. The Masters of Research is a two-year research training agree and it acts as a pathway to a PhD study and a future research career. It's divided into two separate parts of the first year coursework and the second is a supervised research project. In regards to a PhD and a Master of Philosophy, to be eligible for a PhD, you need to have completed an honours, Masters of Philosophy or Masters of Research degree, to be eligible. Western Sydney University is committed to high impact research that that makes it a tangible and ongoing difference in the world and is responsive to contemporary challenges. Like I mentioned, sorry quickly from 6 to 7pm this evening there is a breakout room for High Degree Research at Western Sydney University and you can find that on the main event page for more information.

Okay, the application process. So if you should have any questions about the application process either domestic or international admissions stuff will be available tonight by the web chat function. And we'll be happy to assist with any questions that you do have. Starting with domestic students, a domestic student is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia, or someone who's on a permanent Humanitarian visa and you can apply in one of two ways. Directly to Western where the application is free through our website. If you Google Western Sydney University apply you'll definitely get a page that will have a link to our direct application portal. Or you can also apply through the university's admission centre UAC, although there is an application fee for that, it does sometime depend on the course if you have to apply through UAC or not, but it will say, so when you click on it on the link on our Western Sydney page, it will take you to the right page to apply on.

In terms of international students and you can apply in one of two ways. Also, the first is applying online using our study link portal. The second way is through an agent representative. For further

information and to see if you will need to apply through an agent representative you can head to our Western Sydney University international page, it is detailed really well and you can definitely find out there whether you do have to apply through study link or whether you will need to apply through an agent representative. You can also visit the how to apply tab on the event website tonight to speak with our admissions team through the web chat.

Okay, in terms of fees. Some key terms, I guess, to explain. The first is a Commonwealth Supported Place CSP. This is a government subsidized place where remaining tuition, can be deferred by eligible domestic students on to a HECS loan. Then we have FEE- Help loan, which is for eligible domestic students who wanted to defer tuition fees from a non CSP course or non-Commonwealth Supported Course. Okay, now in terms of domestic fees. The majority of Post Graduate courses at Western Sydney University are domestic full fee paying places. Australian citizens may be able to defer fees from full fee paying courses onto a FEE- Help Loan. All postgraduate Education courses and most Post Graduate Nursing courses and Westerns at Western have a Commonwealth Supported Place and follow the Undergraduate fee structure, So that's for just Education and Nursing. In terms of international fees, for our Post Graduate courses for International Students these fees can be found on our website. All international students, you'll be advice or the exact fees on your official offer letter which will include your tuition fees and compulsory overseas Student Health cover. And again for further information you can visit our fees site, so if you just Google for WSU fees you'll, you'll find that, again, it's more information there.