

Postgraduate Information Evenings 2020- *Business Transcript*

[WESTERN] Sid Sondhi: Great. I'm good evening, everyone. Thank you so much for basically joining this session. I'm I'll be starting the Sydney Graduate School of Management post graduate information session now.

I would also recommend everyone to basically keep themselves on me, which will assist us to go through the slides. So thank you so much again. Before we start, I would like to acknowledge the country we meet on. 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.

Now I would like to introduce myself and Dr Laurel Jackson as we both will be presenting this session. Laurel Jackson is director of postgraduate education and Senior Lecturer for the School of Business at Western Sydney University. And I'm Sid, and I'm a current business students studying here at Western with a specialization in accounting.

Also would like to let all the attendees. Now that the session and the breakout rooms are all being recorded. And the participation is functional if did you participate in session, then the video and the audio transmission will automatically be captured by the recording and will be accessible to other participants in zoom meeting so and breakout sessions. If anyone has any issues or any questions about it please email our events team at the email address, which is available on the screen. And I'll also say it eventsteam@westernsydney.edu.

So now all I would like to describe the format of today's session. They'll be postgraduate study attendees will hear about postgraduate study options available in the School of Business. Western Sydney University, at a glance, in which participants will hear about the university's response to COVID -19. I will also talk more about Higher Degree Research and the application processes and also there will be a slide on fees and at the end there will be a Q&A, this will be an opportunity to get your questions answered. Please refrain them on asking questions now has these will be answered in the end by the academics. There are breakout rooms, following the presentation, and at the end of the presentation, they'll split into groups, depending on what area of postgraduate study your interested in. Right. Okay. So now I want to have your presentation over to Laurel, to give an overview about the postgraduate study.

Laurel Jackson: Thanks Sid and good evening, everybody. Welcome. I can't see you all but I can kind of feel you all there, which is which is lovely. So what I'm going to do this evening is just tell you a little bit about our post graduate courses that we have available. You'll have an opportunity then afterwards to go into the different breakout sessions. I'll be telling you about our academic course advisors will be there to give you in detail information about the courses that you're interested in. Also, if you would like to set up a one on one discussion with myself or my colleagues, you can do that through the chat sessions in the breakout. So, okay. And I'm imagining that you will have lots of questions. So we're very happy to have a one on one with you, we can set up extra zoom meetings. Just suit a time you know whatever time is good for you.

So postgraduate study I started thinking about this for myself when I was a single mom with three little boys. And I thought I better get my act together if I was going to look after them properly. And so I decided then to do an MBA. I was very fortunate to have a Mum who could help me with the kids while I studied. It led me into a very happy, successful corporate career, which I had the next 20 years in Australia and in Singapore. And then, of course, I came back to Australia and joined Western

Sydney did my PhD and here I am. I just love our program. I think our courses that we run our very special. I know that our students both our local ones in our international ones become very engaged because they are, most of the courses you will find a got a very practical side to them. So you learn about theory and that theory is always up to the minute, but you also learn about how to apply it. And so for those of you who are working, you can find that even when you've just started the course, the things that you're learning will be relevant to you to apply in your workplace straightaway. And that's really what distinguishes SGSM from a lot of the other courses. You can talk to some of our students and our graduates and they can attest to that. In fact, I've got a group this evening I'm teaching an executive MBA class tonight. It's one of the last units that they're doing they've been with us for a couple of years and they have been able to apply the things that they have learned in that program in in their workplaces on a regular basis and that that makes them very satisfied with what they're studying. So I guess, everyone's thinking about, you know, should I do a masters, is it going to take up too much time we've got such a challenging business environment at the moment. I know for some of my students it's a bit of a hiatus in a work because of what's happened with COVID and they taking an opportunity to do some upskilling. For others there's some extra challenges that are really come on stream since we've all been in this situation, that if you can take a course that will help you to address some of those for yourself in your own work life. And it is a very challenging time at the moment. But I think it also gives us a different perspective on how important our own personal learning and development can be. So I know, knowing that you need to do it doesn't really make it any easier. And for some of you, you probably haven't even been to university before, and that's fine we have programs for those of you who don't have undergraduate degrees, where you can do a graduate certificate based on your work experience and then move into a master's program, if you would, would like to. We've tried to structure our programs so that there's a real balance between work study and your own personal life. So I'll tell you some more about how our courses are structured so that we can actually deliver that for you. So as I was saying, we have a balance of theory and real world application. So as an example, my executive MBA class this quarter has been looking at a number of themes that are really important to senior leaders, in a post-Covid world and we're doing the research as we go because things are unfolding so quickly. That's happening in all of our programs we have really innovative teaching methods as well. And there's a great deal of involvement amongst class and also between the class and the end the academic, I think our programs are very creative and we certainly encourage independent thinking You get an opportunity, whether it's online, or whether you know when we get a chance to come back into the classroom in Parramatta, you'll find that there's a wide range of students and staff as well and it helps you to expand your business networks. Which is a real advantage. So why Sydney Graduate School. Well, we do have a wide range of courses. And I think that they're, they're very contemporary the subjects that we do up to the minute in terms of the content and many of them have accreditation. Which makes them especially attractive if you're in particular industry where you're looking for that kind of thing. We have a number of external advisory groups from industry who keep us up to the minute with the material that we put into our courses. And as I said, a lot of them have professional recognition. We do have a high profile internationally, we, have a lot of partners with organizations, both in Australia and overseas very flexible study modes. One of the things I think that's quite unique for us is that we don't have two semesters of teaching. We have 4 10 week quarters, each year and you can actually enrol for any one of those four quarters, so you don't have to wait until you know, the next six months rolls around before you enrol you can enrol now. If you do it, part time a part time load of study is just one unit and that's manageable. That's what I meant about the work life balance. So a lot about students who are working will come and do a part time program, they will do one subject at a time, which is manageable. But because it's four quarters at the end of their first year they have four subjects that they've completed. And while we

don't have as many holidays at the end of the year, as some of our other courses, most of our students tell us that they really like that. The other thing, too, is that if your work becomes very challenging in a particular quarter, then you can take that quarter off. Get a leave of absence and just come back to us in the next quarter. And the sequence of the subjects that you're doing won't be interrupted by that break. We'll be able to help you to manage your sequencing. So very flexible and very much geared to people who have very busy and have very full lives. When you come into face to face study again, you'll find that our facilities at Parramatta in our building, there are really state of the art. It's a purpose built building in their lovely studios that we have our classes in, the classes are not just I lecture and what my colleagues lecture and you listen, they very much full of engagement discussion, problem solving, those sorts of things, a very dynamic environment.

So I'll just go through some of the areas of study that we have available for you. There's a lot of them, so with finance, we have an affiliation with the CFA so Certified Financial Industry and we have a Master of Applied Finance and depending on your background, your undergrad degree your other study your work experience there is various pathways into this course. So for those of you who have no qualifications in this area, there would be 16 units of study. But for those of you who've got experience in the industry, you've got an undergrad degree it's possible that you would get a lot of advanced standing. And this is another thing that operates for all of our courses. It's something that you should talk to the academic course advisors when you go into your breakout sessions. And if you send us your resume will be able to give you an indication of how much they'd been standing, you will be eligible for. That could save you a lot of time and also a lot of money.

Our Master of Property Investment and Development has got a whole range of accreditations. It's really unique in Australia. You can get a number of different qualifications, including things like Valuers Certification. And that again is a flexible course in terms of the amount of time you would need to spend doing it. Depending on the pathway that you come in and what your work experiences and you can probably get some advanced standing for that work experience if it's relevant and if you're working in that industry already.

Master of Finance is similar to Applied Finance, it's a shorter course for those people who have a lot of experience and are working in the industry right now. With our accounting programs. So same thing Master of Professional Accounting Advanced are for those of you who don't have a background in accounting and you're wanting to have a full program of study, starting from scratch. That's the one for you. Master of Professional Accounting is a shorter course for those who have some experience already. And we also have our Master of Financial Planning, which is fully up to date with all of our requirements.

A Master of Marketing has been something that we've totally revised over the last couple of years and that some of the subjects in these Masters Course and now becoming so popular, because of the demand for things like digital marketing skills. So a digital marketing program, which sits inside the Master of Marketing really skills up people to help them particularly now that we're in these remote environments. And that's, that's a very, very popular course. Our HRM program; Master of Human Resource Management is true for those who are thinking of that particular industry or if you're working in that industry. And we have AHRI accreditation for that course which is the this the high standard in Australia.

We also have a course in logistics and supply chain which is the Master of Business Operations Management. And that again is very popular course these days. One of the key things that we're uncovering around this COVID environment is just how critical having appropriate supply chains can be. And the things that our students learn. They're very practical. They're able to apply it soon as

they get back into the work environment. I had one of my students doing a presentation, the other evening. It was his last subject that he was doing in in this area. And he has done an internship with an organization, he'd been able to save them a lot of money and streamline their business using Lean principles which you would learn in this course. Of course they're very happy with him. So those are very practical skills that you can learn about doing this kind of study.

In the management area. There's a whole lot of different options. So we have a Master of Management, which is a short eight subject course for those of you who already are in this area and have experienced or an undergrad degree.

We have an Executive Master of Business Administration. This is a lovely course for people who have senior roles in business already, they need to have at least five years of senior management experience to qualify to enter this program. And it's really good for people who are wanting to take that next step to be a director CEO, CFO, something like that. And the people that you meet in that particular course if that's the one for you are like minded. The will the age profile for that course is quite a bit older, the senior managers and it's a wonderful way of building networks as well. Because you get to know your colleagues really well, work together and support each other. The group that I'm teaching up to these tonight. They've got their own little WhatsApp group, you know, they share all of the issues that they've got when you're doing your assignments, talk to each other about it. It's a lovely environment.

Our Master of Business Administration is good for pretty much anybody that has an undergrad degree. Who thinks that they need to qualify in a business environment. It's a very flexible program. There's foundation and core subjects that everybody does. And then we have a whole raft of specializations finance, marketing management HR, Business Analytics and a whole range. Dr Gulay who's going to be in the in a breakout session for the MBA will take you through what they are. And there's a whole a whole raft of them.

But for those of you who really brave. You could do a double masters. We have double Masters Course and Master of Business Administration and Master of Applied finance. That's a course that a lot of our international students really like to do they come to Australia to study, they do this course. It takes a bit longer than the normal person great course but they end up with these two fantastic degrees. And then one of our most our fast growing programs is our Master of Business Analytics. This has become such a critical area. You think about the amount of data that we all have in our workplaces these days, that just dumped on us. What we do in Master of Business Analytics is learn how to manage that, how to analyse it and also how to present that data back to the people in your organisation in ways that can really help them to understand what's going on in the business.

For those of you who can't enter a master's course straightaway, because you don't have an undergraduate degree. You can start off by doing a Graduate Certificate in Business, or if you're heading for the executive MBA, a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration. These certificates have just got four units each and they are the first four units of each of the master's degrees, Business admin and executive MBA. So once you've done them. You get it then Advanced Standing for that that shortens the master's course that you would then do. But if it's your pathway in if you don't have an undergrad degree.

For those of you who perhaps don't have enough years of experience to get to do our Graduate Certificates. We have a Masters Qualifying program as well. And my colleague, Dr. Jess Richards is waiting to talk to anyone who feels they'd like to know more about what it would take to do a Masters Qualifying Program. These are the specializations I was mentioning from the MBA. So you

can see there's a whole range of them. And we're always bringing new ones in to keep things current and relevant.

So how long will it take. Well, as I was saying to you before. The way we've designed our courses is by keeping busy people in mind. And I remember that from my own corporate life and trying to do a study and look after a family as well. So I think, you know, in creating the opportunity to do one subject at a time. It's kind of like bite sized chunks of learning that are quite manageable that can fit. If you do one subject, that means you would come to class once a week, it would be a session that would be in a studio or online at the moment, three, four hours. And you would get access to a whole lot of learning materials through our learning guides, which would, you would be able to then. It would give you a very clear idea of what you would need to do to prepare for each of the classes each week. So takes you step by step through what's being taught each week, the readings that you would need to do, the exercises that might happen in class and the assignments that you might be asked to do. So normally there's between two and three assessments per quarter.

Of sometimes these an exam is one of the assessments, but not always. Individual reports they sometimes some group activity as well. And this really helps you I think in the way that we've structured things to manage costs, time and commitment and particularly if you're eligible for advanced standing that certainly going to help you manage your costs. And you so you need to explore that when you get into the breakout session.

One subject per quarter. 10 weeks each quarter, then one week for exams than a week's break and in the back into it. so it's a bit more intense in that way, but as I say works very well, particularly for our local students who are working full time. This is just an example of the kind of assessment. This is come straight out of a learning guide. So when you enrol in a subject to get access to the learning guide, you can see straight away. What am I up for in terms of assessments, when are they do, how much is each one worth, and then it will give you some detail guidelines in what you would need to do to get a good grade in each one of those as well. So there's absolutely no surprises.

And this is our team. So when you go into your breakout sessions and you might jump from one to another. You find all these people will be waiting there to give you whatever information you're looking for. So I'll just introduce them to you this Dr. Walid. He's our academic course advisor for Economics and Finance. There's Dr. Peter, who looks after all their Accounting and Financial Planning students, it's Dr Gulay, you I mentioned before on who said to give you some help for those of you who are interested in MBA or executive MBA, I would normally be in that group with her but this evening you'll have to excuse me, because I'm teaching at six o'clock. But she is our academic course advisor for these courses and she knows me inside out back to front.

That we have Dr. Hilal, who is our operations management and HR academic course advisor. She's actually an engineer herself. Her specialty is logistics and supply chain, all of those who are interested in management and HR, she can help you with that too. Dr. Sharon is our property guru and she can help you through all the questions that you might have about our property investment and development program. Farid is our marketing guru and knows all of our marketing subjects back to front. Dr. Abdul looks after our business; he is there to look after anyone who's interested in business analytics. And for those of you who might be interested in, say doing a research degree, and maybe leading into a PhD, Dr. Aila Khan is there ready to talk to you about that. And last but certainly not least, Dr. Jess is there to talk to anyone who's interested in doing our Masters qualifying program. So that's the team. They are wonderful team. Look I like looking at these photos. They're always smiling at me. That's the way we having our meetings at the moment online. And

they're all very keen to give you information about our courses because we're all so committed to them. Thanks.

So now I'm going to say farewell for this evening and hand you back to Sid, who's going to give you some more information. I've put my email address into the chat so if any of you would like to have a one on one, and I know I'm talking to a couple of you, and a couple of your colleagues who couldn't actually be here this evening, but wanted to talk about an MBA or an executive MBA, just shoot me an email and I'll be very happy to set that up. Okay.

[WESTERN] Sid Sondhi: Great. Thank you so much, Laurel.

Laurel Jackson: Okay, thanks Sid.

[WESTERN] Sid Sondhi: No worries. Have a good evening. Thank you so much.

Laurel Jackson: Bye. See you later.

[WESTERN] Sid Sondhi: Awesome. So now what I want to do is I'd like to talk more about Western Sydney University approach to the global issue of COVID 19. In order to, like the way we have tackled this issue is all the classes, having been moved online and as well as all the student services have been online as well. And also student central and wellbeing services for students have all to be moved online. And now, if anyone needs any assistance they can tell me, give us a call or they can have a live chat as well. In terms of online and on campus study, the university will endeavour to deliver classes, both online and on campus. But this is dependent on the requirements of the course.

All on campus will be held in restricted numbers to allow social distance. In terms of the study assistance for students, Western Sydney University is committed to support our students to ensure that they can continue their learning during the current pandemic and also there are current academic support services available as well to the students so that we can assist you guys. In terms of the Corona Virus support line, the support line is the central contact point for the students and staff. They're responsible for managing and directing inquiries to the correct departments. The team has provided a trusted platform for students seeking the best advice possible.

And also the student hardship fund, the student hardship fund assist students through the provision of grocery vouchers, loan laptops and financial support. The centralized application process has allowed for an efficient turn around to assist students experiencing any sort of hardship as well. And that's how our universities tackling the global pandemic issue.

In terms of the higher degree research courses, we offer masters of research, master of philosophy, PhD – I'll talk about the masters of research courses. So the master of research is a two year research degree that traces the nature and philosophy of research as well as training associated with knowledge translation, engagement and impact. Stage one offers 3 core interdisciplinary research units and five disciplinary based subjects and stage offers supervised research project.

In the PhD and masters of philosophy WSU offers a traditional thesis based PhD, or PhD by publication, as well as professional doctorates (i.e. Doctor of Education) as well as a Doctorate of Creative Arts. PhD is a 3 years full-time and Master of Philosophy is 2 years full-time degree. Commencement at any time of the year. PHD is new and original research, research masters make a significant contribution to an existing piece of research. Also Western Sydney University is committed to high impact research of makes a tangible and ongoing differences in the world and is responsive to contemporary challenges.

Now what I love to do is I like to talk about the application process. I believe everyone is wondering, how can you apply for these first graduate courses and now I'm here to assist you with that. So there are different processes for domestic students as well as international students. Before I get into the application process, I'd like to remind you that our closing dates for the quarter 1 2021 intake is the sixth of December. And the quarter one will be starting on the 11th January 2021. So closing in a month, so I highly recommend to students if you want to apply to do it as soon as possible.

And now I'll talk about the process for domestic students. So domestic students are Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent residents in Australia, or students who have a permanent monetary visa – can apply from two different places. They can apply directly Western Sydney University. That's the easiest of all and it's a free and it's a free application, you can directly through Western Sydney University. Or you can apply through the Universities Admission Centre. Keep in mind that the Universities Admission Centre or UAC does charge a fee for an application, while we don't charge anything for this. Applicants who want to apply who are international, and want to apply to the university, they can apply it two different ways. They can go online using the study link portal. They can also apply to the University through their agent representative as well. Um, in terms of that I would highly recommend to visit the how to apply tab on the event website. To speak with our admissions team through the web chat if you have any questions regarding the application process. Awesome. And these are, that's the website I would highly recommend you go down to if you need to know specific closing dates for different courses.

Now, I would like to talk about the fees. So the fees basically are in two different categories domestic and international. In terms of the key terms in fees. There are Commonwealth Supported Place which is also known as CSP. And what it means is the government subsidized places where the remaining tuition free can be deferred by eligible domestic students on to a HECS HELP loan, and FEE-HELP Loan is for eligible domestic students wishing to defer tuition fees from a non-CSP course. In terms of the domestic fees majority of postgraduate courses at Western are domestic full fee paying places, which is also known as DFEE. Australian citizens may be able to defer tuition fees from full-fee paying courses onto a FEE-HELP loan. And all postgraduate education courses and most postgraduate nursing courses at Western are Commonwealth Supported Place courses and follow the undergraduate fee structure.

In terms of fees for international student, International Fees for our Postgraduate courses can be found on our website, and all international students will be advised of exact fees on their official offer letter, including tuition fees and compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover as well. And that is only valid for the international students. Um, I would recommend for more information you can visit our [Western Sydney university.edu.au/fees](http://WesternSydneyuniversity.edu.au/fees) site to get more information. There are some also additional costs which are associated with the course of study, which is also known as student services amenities fee also called SSAF - a small fee each semester of that fund student services on campus, such as study hall and childcare services. There may be other costs, which might associate like textbooks or class equipment and applicable living expenses.