

Postgraduate Information Evenings 2020 – *Humanities and Communication Arts Transcript*

[WESTERN] Katie Masonwell: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you so much for joining us this evening. This is the post graduate information session for the School of Humanities and Communication Arts. So thanks for holding tight. So before we get started, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land.

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 Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

So to introduce you to our presenters today on the left hand side you have Associate Professor Matt McGuire. He's the acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, now be handing over to him very shortly. On the right side is myself. So my name is Katie and I work with the course information Centre at Western. I'm also a Master of Research student and my studies have focused in the area of English Literature.

Okay, so a quick disclaimer this session as well as the breakout sessions are being recorded so your participation is completely optional. If you do participate in the session, please note the video and audio transmission will be captured by the recording. Will also be seen by the other participants in the zoom meeting and breakout sessions, if this is something you are not comfortable with. You're more than welcome to leave your camera and audio switched off. And to ask questions via the chat function. If you have any questions about this, please email our events team by the email list at the bottom of the slide. So you're more than welcome to screenshot any slides throughout this presentation or take photos so you can refer to information later.

This is our presentation agenda for today. So it next Associate Professor Matt McGwire will present about postgraduate study options available in School of Humanities and Communication Arts. I will then tell you about Western at a glance, including universities response to COVID- 19. We will discuss high degree such options than the application process which difference between international and domestic students. We will then briefly talk about fees and what costs to expect. And lastly, it will be a Q&A at the end of the session. So at the end of the presentation, there'll be an opportunity to get all of your questions answered. Please refrain from asking questions during this presentation. So the end of the session will ask you to move into a breakout room so you can speak to academics that teach or advise and the course that you're interested in studying. So they can answer any questions about accreditation, the class timetable placements and what to expect in the assessment tasks. Now I will be handing over to Matt McGwire.

Matthew McGuire: Alright, thanks very much. Katie and hello to everybody. I'm very welcome along, it's good to see everybody virtually. I'm going to basically speak for by 10 minutes and I'm going to do four things over the next 10 minutes I'm going to introduce the

School of Humanities and Communication Arts and talk a little bit about disciplines that we teach in our school. I'm going to talk a little bit about rankings, because we're a university in the 21st century and universities care a lot about rankings. So mentioned that briefly and then I'm going to introduce the eight different post graduate courses that we teach here in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts. And then the last thing I'll do is I'll talk really briefly about some career opportunities that that we think these courses and help students get towards. So that's what we're going to do. The first slide, I'm going to show you just here tells you a little bit about the school in which were based. So where the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and we comprise a broad set of disciplinary fields. It includes communication studies and media literature and creative writing it includes Cultural Studies and music and music therapy. It also includes historical and philosophical inquiry and design and the languages and linguistics. Students that come to our school Benefit from high quality teaching and research and that places us in the top hundred and 75 schools in the world and then the top eight in Australia. And I'm just going to show you another slide that that explains a little bit more about that. And so, yeah, we're a university and universities care about rankings. So I just wanted to share with you some of the rankings that that we're particularly proud of in our school at the moment and the QS world rankings were invented in the early 2000s, to help international Students try to understand how good a university was or how good a subject was at a university and to help them make a decision about where they were going to go. And so in total every year the QS rankings evaluate five and a half thousand universities and you can see on the slide here for communication and media studies. Our school ranked in the top 100 out of those five and a half thousand for linguistics, we were in the top hundred and 50 and for English language and literature we were in the top 250. So that puts us roughly in the top 5% of universities in the world for those three subject areas. So it's something where we're quite proud of, as an institution, The US News rankings is another global ranking. And again, what they do is they look at the subjects that that different schools teach at different universities and in their 2020 rankings, the arts and humanities area for Western Sydney University ranked 114th in the world, which this says its 8th in Australia. And as I'm sure many of you will know there's 39 universities in Australia. So that puts us in the top quartile of universities in the arts and humanities in Australia. So If you decide that you'd like to come and study Western then you're coming to a place that's highly thought of and highly respected around the world. And the next slide, I'm going to share with you just explains a little bit about some of the research strengths that we have here at the school. These little descriptions are the ways that the Australian government measures the quality of the research that universities produce, and so you've got three categories that are notable and worth talking about. The first is world standard, the second is above worlds standard then and then the highest category as well above world standard. So in terms of literature and Philosophy HCA has world standard research and then terms of these other areas we have above world standard research as well. And to give you a really concrete example of what that means on the ground and in our Literature and Creative Writing program, for example, and one of the professors that teaches with us is Professor Gill Jones and some of you may know that I'm in 2019 she won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for her novel "The death of nor glass". So that was the, the largest literary prize in Australia that year one of our staff members won

that. And we also have students that win prizes so one of our students this year Natalie has just won the Ned Kelly award for the best debut crime novel. And that's a national Australian award. And she wrote that crime novel when she was working in our Creative Writing Program. So we have students and we have staff that the win national awards and that's some of the things that gets folded into what makes you know our programs and so successful. The next slide, we've got is a real brief overview of the different post graduate courses that we teach here in the school. Now I'm going to teach you about some terms just really briefly here you're going to see on here a Master's level course you're going to see a graduate diploma. And you're going to see a graduate certificate. And the way to understand these is really to do with the time frame that you'll be studying. So most Masters Courses are normally two years. Okay, so if you do a full Master, you'd be studying for two years. And if you wanted to try something out and you only wanted to study for a single semester you would exit with a graduate certificate at the end of that semester. And then if you wanted to study for a full year you would have exit with a graduate diploma. Okay, so with each of these courses students all enrolled together and then depending on how long they decide to stay in the course that determines the level of award that they that they get. Okay. So we have 8 postgraduate course areas that we teach you in school. We have creative music therapy. We have creative industries, we have a Master's in continental Philosophy we have cross cultural relations and then the next slide, I think, has the rest of them. We get the next slide please. Here we go. So we also have a Masters of digital humanities. We've got a Master's in literature and creative writing. We have interpreting and translation, we have TESOL as well. Was that it lets click the next slide, I come from. There we go. Yeah, so those are basically the 8 post graduate courses that we teach here and our school. Then just before I wrap up and come back to Katie I wanted to say a little bit briefly about the kind of career prospects that we think these Masters Courses open up for students to take them. And so the first one there we've got as the Masters of creative industries and really with that Masters students are access and a broad suite of possible industry. That they can go into. So it goes from photography and design to things like marketing public communications and PR as well. For the Masters of digital humanities and a lot of people end up in the Glam sector so galleries libraries and archives and museums. I mean, all you gotta do is look on the website of any Museum at the moment and you'll see in light of digitization that's happening in the museum space. Or even just walk into a gallery or a museum and you see iPads and you see interactive displays that people touch so that's digital humanities and one of the places that that those students end up working in. If we flip to the next slide. I'm going to say a few words just a white the Masters of continental Philosophy and a lot of students that take this Masters end up going on to further PhD study and to careers in academia and what I thought I would surprise you with a few graduates from Philosophy that you might not be aware of. So some of you have probably heard of PayPal right there if you've ever bought anything online will Peter Thiel, who's the CEO of PayPal as a graduate at not of our university but he's a Philosophy graduate. He studied Philosophy University. Some of you might have heard of Alibaba, which is basically the Chinese version of Amazon. So jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba and other Philosophy graduate some of you might have even heard of sitcom called the Office and your fun factor for tonight is that Ricky Jarvis who made up the office and majored in Philosophy, when He

was a student at University College London, so you can wow your friends with. The Masters of cross cultural relations again people work in a range of different sectors of a tourism is one of the big sectors that graduates from this Masters end up working in. Before COVID landed on us in Australia tourism was one of the biggest employers over 650,000 people in Australia work in the tourism industry. And it generates about \$60 billion dollars for the US economy and every year and before the planes all got grounded there was about 9 million people a year that were tourists visit in Australia. So it's a really huge part of the Australian economy. And the next slide on there. Has the Masters of literature and creative writing again students during this Masters go into a range of different careers. We have some students who want to be authors and they want to learn how to actually write novels write poems get published. And we have a lot of students doing this, your teachers and increasingly creative writing as part of the curriculum for schools here in New South Wales. And then we also just have a lot of people who feel that they have a book in them and they want to learn a high to hone their skills to get some feedback on their work and they want to learn how to actually produce something that will be published and available and shops and that's some of the, you know, the people that come in to do the Masters of literature and creative writing. Clicking on to the next slide. We've got the Masters of interpreting and translation. And again, all you gotta do is look at the linguistic variety that there is in Sydney to see the value of a Master's in interpreting and translation. Students with this qualification can end up in hospitals and police stations and local courts and they can also end up in the United Nations doing simultaneous translation work there. So, Languages and a real great opportunity to travel and also to get a great career. At the Master of Arts and TESOL. so, again, language teaching and teaching English as a second or other language and such a huge part of the Educational space in New South Wales. So there's lots of opportunities in that space. And then on the last slide. The final Masters that we've got is the Masters of creative music therapy and again music therapy is becoming a growing part of the kind of broad suite of therapies that that are delivered in places like hospitals, but also in clinics rehabilitation centres and in schools and in nursing homes as well. So there's a real range of places where were graduates of that Masters can end up pursuing their career. So that's just a real whirl wind turn on a brief overview of some of the things that our students study and the places that they end up. I'm going to hand back over to Katie and she's going to wrap up our introduction to the school and to these Master's programs.

[WESTERN] Katie Masonwell: Awesome. Thank you. So now quickly talking about Western Sydney University and our response to COVID 19 so we moved all courses online this year to adhere to social distancing regulations. However, for next year 2021 the School of Humanities and Communication Arts is planning to offer almost all post graduate classes with both of face to face married and an online version. We acknowledged that some students will want to be on campus other students may be in a remote or an overseas location or they may have health concerns and prefer to study online. So we're going to be able to accommodate both groups. Regarding study assistance Western is committed to supporting our students to ensure they can continue learning through the current pandemic. So their current academic support services available to students to assist them. This includes extensive online resources and online study smart advises. There's also an

online library and live chat and the ability to schedule zoom sessions for the librarian, moreover access to study halls and library facilities all students are required internet or a place to study. Our students central and all wellbeing services have also been moved online and accessible via live chat or phone call communication. We've also created a coronavirus support line. So they are responsible for managing and directing inquiries to the right, departments. And this team has provided a trusted platform for students taking the best advice possible. Lastly, our student hardship fund. The student hardship, one that says students through the provision grocery vouchers and loan laptops and financial support. Using a centralised application process, has allowed for an efficient maximum five-day turnaround to assist students are experiencing hardship.

Now moving on to the next slide to talk about higher degree of research. We have many courses specifically for pursuing higher degree research if this is something you are interested in. So these courses include the Master of research, the Master of Philosophy, the PhD or Dr Philosophy, the Doctor and Creative Arts, the Doctor of Education. And the Doctor Cultural Research all of these postgraduate research degrees are handled by the Graduate Research School, So the Master of Research course is a two-year research training degree that acts as a pathway to a PhD, in a future research career. So the first year is purely coursework and the second year as a supervisor research project. As I mentioned earlier, this is the course I'm currently studying It's an incredibly interdisciplinary course I've had the opportunity to learn from and work with people of all research backgrounds. And this includes students research and scientific concepts and music computing technology journalism and even law. And next year I'll move on to the thesis stage and spend a year running my project on English literature. Regarding the PhD program and the Master Philosophy. To be eligible for a PhD, you must have completed an honours year, or a Master of Philosophy or a Master of Research degree. So at Western, you can do a traditional PhD or you can or professional Doctor. That's a course, such as the Doctor of Education or Dr. Creative Arts a PhD is three years' full time the Master Philosophy is around two years' full time. So you can command these courses at any time here and there is their application deadline. A PhD is an ideal course if you have new and original research ideas that you believe will contribute something important to the Academy. Western Sydney is committed to high impact research that makes a tangible and ongoing difference in the world. This responsive to contemporary challenges. So if you're interested in finding out more about the Graduate Research School, and High Degree of Research here at Western there's a breakout session running from six to 7pm this evening, you can locate on this session on the main event, and I believe it was also posted in the chat by one of our staff. Again that session will take place between six and 7pm this evening.

Now moving on to speak about the application process. So if you have any questions about the application process either domestic or international admissions staff are available tonight via the web chat function. They can assist you. So domestic students are Australian citizens New Zealand citizens and permanent residents, domestic students can apply one of two ways. You can apply directly to Western which is completely free, or you can apply by by the University Admissions Centre or UAC. So, please note that there is a slight application fee for that option. So if you're an international student, you can apply and one of two ways.

You can apply online using the study link portal or through an agent representative. If you're unsure if you need an agent to apply, you can convince an application via the study link portal and the system will alert you if you require an agent. Again admission support is available this evening. You just click the how to apply tab on the event website to speak with admissions team via web chat. Moving on to the next slide. Okay, so you can also visit the link on this slide here for more information about post graduate application deadlines. So that can be helpful if anyone wants to take a quick screenshot of that.

Then we will we wanted discussing fees. Okay, so there are a few key times you'll come across in the discussion of fees, which includes commonwealth support place (CSP) and a FEE- HELP loan. So Commonwealth supported place is a government subsidized place. This means the fee is usually slightly cheaper and the remaining tuition can be deferred by eligible domestic students on to a HECS Help loan. So a fee FEE-HELP loan is different from a HECS Help Loan and FEE help is for eligible domestic students wishing to defer tuition from a course that is not CSP. So regarding domestic fees, the majority of post graduate course at Western on domestic full fee paying causes. Australian citizens may be able to defer tuition fees from full fee paying courses on to a FEE-HELP loan. All post graduate Education courses and most of our post graduate nursing courses are CSP and follow the undergraduate fee structure.

International fees for our post graduate courses can be found on our website. So all international students will be advised, of their exact fees on their official offer letter including tuition fees and compulsory or the scenes International Student Health cover. There are some additional costs that also worth noting. So all students are expected to paint SSAF fee. That's a student services and amenities fee. It's a small fee each semester, the funds student services such as study hall and childcare. So other cost may include textbooks class equipment and applicable living expenses.