

Karen Barnard

Lawyer

HSC Year: 2005 ATAR: 96.65
Equal Dux



Training (eg TAFE, University etc)

- **Degree:** Bachelor of Laws (Hons)/Bachelor of Arts (Griffith University)

Special Educational Achievements

- Law Grade Point Average = 6.45/7.00
- First class honours in law
- Ranked first for Honours Research Thesis (paper currently being edited so that it can be published)
- Learned a second language (Finnish)

Jobs (at university and afterwards)

Some previous jobs that I have had include:

- A law tutor for indigenous students at Griffith University.
- A research assistant for a lecturer at Griffith University.
- An English tutor for primary school and high school students.
- Summer waitressing work and work in a clothes shop.

What are you doing now?

I currently tutor classes for the course 'Legal Issues for Managers' at Griffith University. I also work at a community legal centre called Caxton Legal Centre in Brisbane one day per week. I am currently completing a 32 week Practical Legal Training program ("PLT"). Completing the PLT is a requisite to being admitted as a lawyer. I have 7 weeks left to complete the theory component of my PLT and then I will begin my 15 week work-placement at Caxton Legal Centre in Brisbane.

In regards to jobs I am currently in the process of applying for graduate jobs as a junior lawyer for 2012 in Brisbane. I also intend to begin learning a third language (Spanish) once I finish the theory component of my PLT.

UPDATE 13th September 2011: I received a job offer today with one of Australia's top commercial law firms! I'm really excited and the position starts in late February 2012 and is in Brisbane. The firm is called Allens Arthur Robinson.

Relevant Experiences since leaving school (eg special achievements)

- I participated in an exchange program in Finland in 2008 for one semester. During this time I learned the Finnish language. I also travelled around different countries in Europe and visited Asia. I have since visited Finland for a second time and visited other countries in Europe.

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Tips for our students

Before university

I highly recommend participating in an exchange program whilst at university. It is such an invaluable experience and you meet so many new friends and have the opportunity to do a lot of travel. I believe that doing an exchange program is also the most cost effective way to live overseas because you do not pay the host university any money and essentially only pay the costs of daily living (e.g., accommodation, food). The host university will normally provide you with assistance in organising visas, bank accounts and student accommodation.

If you are not sure what to do straight after high school it can be a good idea to take a year off to work and to save money before starting university. This is a benefit because you can become 'independent' for Centrelink purposes and receive more youth allowance when you do move away to university. It also gives you time to earn some money, perhaps travel and just broaden your experiences.

Completing your High School Certificate & obtaining a specific UAI score:

If you do not receive the UAI entrance score that you need to enter into your desired degree do not despair because you can transfer quite easily from one degree to another once you are in university. This means that you can simply begin at university in a degree with a lower entrance score and then transfer over after six months (or in some cases one year where mid-year entry is not offered for a specific course).