



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Student Profiles Development Studies Graduate Hannah Ireland

Graduate profile: Hannah Ireland

Growing up in Nepal, Hannah experienced first-hand the complex realities of poverty and development and grew a deep passion for social, environmental and economic justice. Hannah's career has taken her across the world, managing programs in the field of human rights, inclusive development, education and public health.

After graduating from the Bachelor of Development Studies at UON, Hannah was awarded First Class honours in Human Geography at Macquarie University. She then went on to complete a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney. While at Macquarie University, Hannah did some work as a research assistant before landing her first position in the development industry.

"My first proper job was a three month position to begin with, working with an NGO called UnitingWorld in Sydney. It was really an administrative role, working to bring together their peace building program into their mainstream development program. I ended up staying at UnitingWorld for four years doing various other roles".

"I finished the degree and just wanted to go into a project management type role, but it's just not possible, so those admin type roles are perfect to start with because you can be working very closely with the project managers, and it was definitely a foot in the door. I don't think that had I applied for the next job that I got, straight out of Uni, I would have got it".

"I think the most important thing for me [getting my first position] was the volunteering I did at University. I was part of organisations that were doing advocacy. I also did an internship with Aid Watch in Sydney with the money I got through a summer scholarship from Newcastle Uni. I think that's part of why I got my first job, because the person interviewing me knew Aid Watch. Though any volunteering you can do goes a long way. You need to build your experience and find your opportunities".



Since working at UnitingWorld, Hannah has had the opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom to work in the area of international development, poverty and disease prevention. She has also worked with various other not for profit organisations across her career.



Hannah recommends the Bachelor of Development Studies program for all people interested in working in the development industry.

“I really liked that it was a set development studies degree, with a lot of freedom because obviously the area of development is huge, but there was a lot of freedom to follow what I wanted to do. I still appreciated the structure of the degree, especially the core subjects”.

“It taught me how to think, how to apply critical thought to a whole range of different situations, which I have been able to use to gain my practical experience”.

Hannah also recommends becoming active in the industry and networking, to further your knowledge and develop relationships.

“It’s also important to find people who you can have connections with, not necessarily in terms of getting jobs, just being connected because so much of it is about networking. So much of understanding the sector is about having those relationships, and you can start to do that before you’re in a job”.



CONTACT

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For more information visit: www.newcastle.edu.au/degrees/bachelor-of-development-studies