



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



Graduate profile: Jamie Pomfrett

Since graduating from the Bachelor of Development Studies degree at the University of Newcastle, Jamie has had the opportunity to combine his academic knowledge with his previous experience in the horticulture and permaculture industry to follow a diverse career in sustainable food production.

After undertaking an apprenticeship in Horticulture and suffering a bad knee injury which ended his rugby league ambitions, Jamie was forced to rethink his life goals.

“I started thinking about what I was going to do. At the time I didn’t really know a lot about Development Studies, or what the degree would entail, but I am so glad I applied”.

“One of the really wonderful things about development studies is that it sets you up with the foundational knowledge to peruse a range of careers. My first role after graduating was as a Community Garden Coordinator in Newcastle. Through some of the social networks that I had made in Development Studies, I’d been involved with some community garden work; I also did my honours thesis on community gardens so I was really well positioned to go into work relating to community gardens”.

Jamie has worked in a wide range of roles including academic research and volunteered in East Timor and the Middle East, worked for a Refugee Centre and taught community programs with north coast TAFE.

“With a degree in Development Studies, the work opportunities are so diverse. I have friends that have worked for refugee agencies and NGOs on domestic violence programs, as economic development officers for local Government and some that have become involved with politics. There is just such a broad range of opportunities this degree can open up for you”.



“What was really important in Development Studies, was that foundational thinking and organisational skills which are applicable for any job. If you look at the selection criteria for just about any job you’ll notice that analytical thinking, writing and organisational skills will be on the list somewhere.



Those skills are embedded throughout the whole degree. Academically the program was really strong; we were exposed to cutting edge material. The teaching staff were fantastic and very approachable”.

Jamie also incidentally met the love of his life while they were both studying the degree, and they now have a small family. Jamie says that the social side of the Development Studies program was also really important.



“I had the opportunity to create social networks in the industry whilst studying. I never felt a concern about having to find work, because I had met so many people and made so many connections. It reminded me of growing up in a rural town where there was that sense that you would never be out of work because you could turn up to footy training and if you didn't have any work, someone would know someone that could help you out. It felt similar being connected to the Development Studies social network”.

Jamie advises current students to follow those subjects they are passionate about and embrace the broad nature of the degree.

“If you follow what you're passionate about and apply yourself socially and academically, your path will just unfold before you and follow your true interests”.

This advice has worked well for Jamie who in June 2017 became the Ma & Morley Scholarship Program Coordinator at the University of Newcastle. This is an exciting opportunity for Jamie to use his experience and skills as he previously coordinated capacity building programs, including an enrichment program for Indigenous students at Charles Darwin University. Congratulations Jamie.



CONTACT

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