



Student Profiles Development Studies Graduate Alice Jarrett

Graduate Profile: Alice Jarrett

Since graduating from a Bachelor of Development Studies in 2015, Alice Jarrett has travelled across rural NSW to pursue her dream career within agriculture, sustainability and the environment. Alice is currently working as a Local Landcare Coordinator in Bourke.

"While I gravitated to the environmental and agricultural side of Development Studies, my studies challenged my normal way of thinking and encouraged me to consider and critically analyse issues from a number of perspectives as you must in the workplace."

Alice moved from Orange, NSW to study at the University of Newcastle and live on-campus. Alice grew up a lot during this time and learned to take advantage of the facilities and opportunities available including Careers Service, networking in clubs and societies and learning from lecturers and tutors.

Development Studies was foundational for getting a foothold into her desired career. The Work Integrated Learning course saw Alice being mentored at the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in Orange. Alice was subsequently offered a job as an Agricultural Resource Management Officer for 3 months. In the role, Alice wrote up Agricultural Impact Statements for mining exploration and agricultural development projects and conducted site visits, made mapping and fact sheet resources and participated meetings with industry bodies.

"It was a valuable insight into how a Government organisation works and the placement course helped me to build the skills, knowledge and networks to be offered that first job."

Alice moved to Bourke in far West NSW after receiving an offer to work with Western Landcare as a Local Landcare Coordinator. She now works with community, landholder and Landcare-based groups. These Landcare groups are varied and work to tackle different issues including pest management, rivers, ranges and sustainable agriculture.





Alice works with groups on the ground to build capacity, engagement, increase governance, provides project management skills and supports them as they apply for funding to support projects. She also act as a liaison for groups on the ground to higher-level Landcare NSW and Government groups to develop stronger partnerships and assist agriculture in the region.

Alice admits moving to Bourke has been a challenge at times with a smaller population of approximately 2,000 people, a high Indigenous population and a 4-hour drive to the next town.

"What scares people about moving to a remote area is the lack of resources and support but that can also go the other way and be fantastic. I've had to push myself and do a lot of self-learning and development. I'm the only one in my position in Bourke, the next person in the same role is 6 hours away. We share the Western Region of NSW which is 40% of the state so we travel often and have a broad range of responsibilities including running our media, publications, on-the-ground work and liaising with stakeholders and government bodies. You don't often get the opportunity to have such a broad job as I have in cities so I'm thankful for this opportunity."

Thinking back to the start of her Development Studies degree, Alice reflects *"I remember feeling quite overwhelmed when I started studying how many concerning issues there in the world and the repercussions of these, but i left feeling enlightened and empowered having developed skills and understanding that I could make a change."*

Alice recommends students considering Development Studies should pursue it as it's a great stepping stone to a variety of careers. She notes prospective and current students should start looking for jobs that they might be interested in doing in the future and begin working to fine-tune their skills by participating in clubs, societies, events and volunteering opportunities that may go towards supporting their future career.

In the future Alice has her eyes set on further study and wishes to complete a Masters of Global Food and Agricultural Business in Adelaide. *"I like the idea of looking at population dynamics and how that can implement change in trade and investments policy. That's my real interest bizarrely, it's not what I expected but Development Studies changed my viewpoint there too."*



CONTACT

Associate Professor Michelle Duffy

Program Convenor

Michelle.Duffy@newcastle.edu.au

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