

Andrew Crawford

Gaining my planning degree from UQ set the foundation for me to be the best version of myself. It sounds a bit cliched, right? But it's true.

The UQ BRTP degree is highly regarded for its focus on providing a broad knowledge and skills set which is adaptable to many working environments. During my time at UQ, I studied a diverse range of disciplines including geography, maths, sociology, economics, architecture, urban design, transport, environment, engineering, cultural heritage and law. With the emergence of climate change and importance of the circular economy, I suspect the skills base gained is even wider for students today.

As planners we are the 'glue' that connects many ideas and disciplines. It is said that our young people today may have up to 17 jobs and 5 different careers in their lifetime. My planning degree has been a springboard for many career opportunities. When I think about my alumni colleagues, a cohort of only 15 people, there have been State and local government planners, CEOs, company directors, planning consultants, lawyers, environmental consultants, urban designers, development managers, real estate agents, and even aspiring politicians.

I look back on my planning degree at UQ as one of the best times of my life. For many of us who had just finished high school, these really were our formative years—a progression to early adulthood. The course work focused on a collaborative approach where students were encouraged to share thoughts and ideas. They were exciting times and I developed many lifelong friendships during this period.



Andrew Crawford
Class of 1989
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Liz de Chastel

“So what does a town planner actually do?”

When I did my planning degree it was a relatively unknown profession, so I got asked this question all the time, especially from my parents.

I remember our planning lecturers as being mainly from overseas who instilled in us an inquiring and strategic way of thinking. The home grown knowledge was gained from recent graduates of the new course who generously came in to tell us what it was really like working as a planner in Queensland.

I recall being very excited to finally experience working as a town planner after a council on the Darling Downs offered some holiday work to a planning student. I took lodgings at the local country pub and eagerly turned up for my first day of work to find out I was hired to hand colour their new zoning maps. So much for 4 years of study! The segregated morning tea breaks for the male and female council staff were also a challenge. So, despite being somewhat deflated about my new profession, luckily I went on to finish the course.

My time at BRTP gave me a solid grounding across a range of disciplines. The site excursions and student holiday work (land use survey of Darwin and transit surveys) were lots of fun. I also made long lasting friendships with fellow students and highly value these networks. It is a great profession to be in and one that provides endless opportunities. After stints in the NT and Qld, I am now in the ACT undertaking national policy work and still using all those skills I learnt in BRTP many years ago! Congratulations on 50 years.

Liz de Chastel RPIA (Fellow)

Kimberley White



Hong Kong Field Trip, April 2015



Graduation Day, December 2016

It's hard to believe that it's been 7 ½ years since stepping foot onto the UQ campus, not knowing what to expect or that my new social life would frequently be 'Friday nights at the Chamberlain building'.

This year will mark 4 years since graduating, and whenever I'm asked to reflect on my time studying the BRTP degree, my mind is always flooded with the countless opportunities I was presented with. This of course, did not come without some hard work and dedication to my studies (in combination with a few 'study sessions' at the Red Room) which were all made worth it when I secured a Student Planner position with Wolter Consulting Group at the halfway point of my degree. It was at this time that I was able to apply my university learnings in the professional world (and truly understand what they meant by 'planning jargon').

One of my other fondest memories was in the third year of my degree when I attended a field trip to Hong Kong. Observing the cultural aspects and built-form from a different perspective was such an eye opening and thought-provoking experience, one that has and will continue to shape my role in the planning and development industry.

The knowledge and learnings I have gained throughout my four years at UQ are invaluable, not just for my career, but my personal life too. I never would have imagined I would graduate and walk into the professional world whilst surrounded by a group of people which are so much more than just a cohort.

I will always be thankful for the support and opportunities I was provided with, and know that they will only get more exciting for BRTP students in the years to come!



Kimberley White

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