

GRAND GRAMMARIANS

LEVERAGING HER LOVE OF THE LAW

BCGS LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR **JESSICA EDMEADES' (10)** LOVE OF THE LAW, WHICH SHE IS NOW PURSUING AS A LAW GRADUATE AT A HIGHLY REGARDED LAW FIRM.

BCGS recognised Jessica's drive and passion by awarding her the UWA Certificate of Excellence in 2010. This offered Jessica a direct pathway to UWA as her ATAR results were slightly below the UWA law cut-off. Despite this, Jessica graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and International Relations) and Bachelor of Law (with Distinction), placing her in the top 15 to 20 per cent of law students.

"It just goes to show that if you work hard and are passionate about what you are doing, your school marks aren't the be-all and end-all."

During her time at UWA, Jessica was heavily involved in the St George's College community, serving on the College Club Committee and maximising networking opportunities.

Jessica's commitment to helping others was recognised in 2015 when she was named as a Youth Award finalist in the West Australian of the Year Awards. Some of her key volunteering activities include the Australian Red Cross, True Blue Dreaming and Teach Learn Grow.

"I have been an emergency services volunteer and psychological first aid trainer for the Australian Red Cross since 2011 – helping people and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. In 2015, I travelled to Queensland as part of the incident management team to help run the Red Cross response to Cyclone Marcia."

Jessica also managed to find time to travel, visiting Europe and New Zealand with family, then China in 2014 to visit friend Alice White (10) who was working at Tianqi Lithium for six months. She also headed interstate for the World Diabetes Congress as a Diabetes Australia Young Leader in 2013 and the IAVE World Volunteering Conference on behalf of Red Cross WA in 2014.

Now graduated from UWA, Jessica is enjoying work as a Law Graduate at Gilbert + Tobin in the Litigation team, however, has not finished studying just yet.

"While working full time, I have also been completing a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice part time through the College of Law, which is the final prerequisite before I can apply to the Supreme Court for admission as a legal practitioner. I have almost finished College of Law, which means I should be admitted as a lawyer before the end of the year."

As for the future, Jessica aims to continue learning as much as she can.

"I am content to stay in commercial law for the time being. I find the work really engaging and I get to work with intelligent, hard-working and genuinely supportive people. Plus, it's a great way to learn technical skills and keep up-to-date in the industry."

Ms Danielle Hean :: OGA Secretary

