

PENRHOS PAIR SAMPLE UNI LIFE

Penrhos College students Gemma Stratton and Stephanie Hood got a snapshot of tertiary education at the University of Western Australia's Primary Industries Centre for Scientific Education's (PICSE) scholarship camp over the school holidays. Here Gemma tells us about her experience...

Institute. Their research combines not only marine science and neuroscience but also ecology and behaviour. Throughout the week we prepared solutions for preserving tissue of specimens, dissected the eye of a kingfish and stained a retina. We fed sharks, attempted brain dissections, learnt how to set up mist nets to catch birds and even performed goldfish perfusions. We also looked at the eye of a species of lamprey under an electron microscope and talked almost incessantly to the PhD students and scientists about every possible aspect of their work.

“The PICSE scholarship camp involved a week-long stay at Trinity Residential College near UWA, learning about the vast array of opportunities and careers in Agricultural Science, before we had a week of industry placement in the area that had interested us most. We started the week with an introductory welcome from Greens Senator Rachel Siewert and went on tours of DAFWA (Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia), CSIRO and Chemcentre. We had the chance to talk to meteorologists, taxonomists and entomologists at DAFWA, and chemists and forensic scientists at Chemcentre.

Both Steph and I had our Industry Placement with the neuroecology group within the School of Animal Biology and UWA Oceans

The camp enlightened me to just how rapidly growing and important the field of agriculture really is, and my industry placement at the Oceans Institute lab, with so many fantastic research scientists, gave me firsthand experience and contacts that even many current university students would not get the chance to have. It has not only strongly influenced my views on what Agricultural Science really is, but has left me inspired and interested in the possibility of pursuing a degree in the field in the future.”



Gemma Stratton



Stephanie Hood, Gemma Stratton