

My name is Daniel Playne and I am currently working on a PhD in Computer Science at Massey University. I have completed both an Bsc and Bsc(Hons) majoring in Computer Science and in November 2007 I was awarded the AIMES award for IT, Innovation and Science.

I was homeschooled right throughout my schooling years. I think the real advantage of homeschooling during that period was the fact I could learn at my own rate and had more freedom to work on the subjects that took my interest. This meant I was ahead of the normal schooling level and at age 15 started the correspondence school bursary course. I completed with qualification with A-Bursary at age 16 enrolled for a Bsc. at Massey University.

The question I was always asked when people found out I was homeschooled was if I had any friends. I was always a part of large homeschool group activities such as: chemistry, electronics, woodworking, technical drawing etc. I never had trouble meeting people while I was homeschooling and found that I no trouble making friends at university.

The main benefit I believe I got from homeschooling was the self-motivation to work on my own. This helped a lot in university where completing work on time is entirely the responsibility of the student. I found this ability to work on my own without any pressure from the lecturers extremely valuable and I believe is the main reason I was able to achieve such high marks throughout my undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

I have never regretted the fact that I was homeschooled and believe it has been extremely beneficial for my studies at university.