

## Graduate Profile



### Brenda Low

Assistant Business Manager

Stream: Buying 2009

Degree: Bachelor of Commerce

Position prior to Grad Program: Delicatessen Assistant - Supermarkets

1. Why the Woolworths graduate program? (What attracted you to the program? Has it lived up to / surpassed your expectations)

I started work with Woolworths when I was 17, and I always had wanted to be part of the corporate world. With a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, I took the huge step and applied, knowing that if I was successful, I would have to move interstate. The program has exceeded my expectations particularly in the fact that there have been so many great people that I have worked with that have been keen to develop my skills.

2. What would be your key achievement to date / proudest moment on the program?

In October 2010, with the help and guidance of my business manager, Jeremy Menezes, I co-ordinated a Cheese Festival in South Australia and Northern Territory. Not only was I able to travel to South Australia to talk to the region, but I learnt so much from them. Due to such a great success in this event, I was given the go ahead to co-ordinate a national Cheese Festival.

Since then, I have been officially appointed in my role as an Assistant Business Manager for Cheese and Gourmet Foods in the Deli Department.

3. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? How do you believe this program is preparing you for this?

My next step with the business is to become a business manager in training. I would also find it a great opportunity to gain experience in other divisions to get an overall understanding on the company.

The graduate program has been a fantastic journey. My communication, time management, project management and creative skills have all had the opportunity to develop. I look forward to further developing these skills in the years to come to help me prepare for something bigger and better.

4. What personal and professional skills have you developed since joining the program?

My final rotation allowed for my communication and negotiation skills to improve dramatically. Every day, I negotiate on different levels, whether it is with vendors or internally.

My ability to time manage and prioritise has been put to the test numerous times and its satisfying when you meet your deadlines.

5. How would you describe the culture and working environment within your area of work (i.e. team spirit, work ethics, working independently / as a team)?

I have found particularly where I work now, in the deli department, that the team is very close. This makes our working environment pleasant to work in. Everyone has a good work ethic. If something needs to be done, we can all pull together and make what needs to happen, happen.

6. Do you have a mentor / coach? How have they supported you through the program so far?

I have a mentor and she is fantastic. We meet every month to 2 months for lunch and talk about both professional and personal news. It's great to have that trust with another person.

7. What advice would you give others considering applying for the program? Who would you recommend the program to (i.e. what type of person would be suitable)

I would recommend anyone who has the ambition to learn and the capability of learning fast. Information is not going to just land in your lap. You have to proactively search for answers. At the same time, we work in a fast paced environment so it is important to hit the ground running.