



st mary's women

## GEMMA NISBET ('03) Journalist



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When I graduated from St Mary's in 2003, I had notions of becoming the next Anna Wintour (I was reading a lot of Vogue magazines at the time), but beyond that it was all about keeping my options open. I went straight into studying a Bachelor of Arts at UWA and basically just pursued what I found interesting. This meant I changed my major a few times before I graduated with First Class Honours in English in 2008, having also done work experience at a few publications and started working as a freelance journalist alongside my studies.

I then spent the best part of a year travelling before returning to Perth. I'd been planning to pursue further study but was offered a short-term part-time job at The West Australian which, seven years later, has turned into a career as a travel photojournalist. Among other things, my role involves travelling locally, interstate and internationally to write and photograph stories for The West's Travel supplement and new digital platform [sevenwesttravelclub.com.au](http://sevenwesttravelclub.com.au). I'm frequently reminded that it's a pretty strong contender for the best job in the world.

I have always followed my instincts in terms of study and career choices, and my twelve years at St Mary's set me up well for this, giving me great opportunities to try new things, learn from some really wonderful teachers and make lasting friendships. I've only recently come to appreciate how valuable it was to grow up in a school environment where girls and women were front and centre.

For what it's worth, my advice to current St Mary's students is to follow your interests and see where that leads you. Get to know yourself and your strengths, and be prepared to challenge yourself and push the limits of what you're naturally good at. Most of all, don't worry if you don't know what you want to do: it's normal to be uncertain, and it's fine to change direction along the way.

