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## JSEEM 5(1) - Author biographies

Russell Walton

*University of Wollongong*, [rwalton@uow.edu.au](mailto:rwalton@uow.edu.au)

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### Abstract

Author biographies for the volume 5, number 1 issue of the Journal of Student Engagement: Education Matters, 2015.



## **Author biographies**

### **Callum Downes**

Callum Downes is a fourth-year student studying a Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours) at the University of Wollongong and is currently completing his Honours thesis on the writing of English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) students in primary school. His desire to improve the educational outcomes of refugee and new-arrival migrant students fuels his teaching aspirations. Following graduation, he wishes to teach in a primary school with high EAL/D student enrolments, before returning to university to complete a Ph.D. in the fields of educational literacy and TESOL.

### **Lauren Leonard**

Lauren Leonard is a fourth-year student studying the Bachelor of Primary Education (Dean's Scholar, Honours) at the University of Wollongong. When she graduates she hopes to further her studies in a higher research degree. Lauren's research interests at present surround domain-general cognitive processes (e.g., working memory) and their associated theories (e.g., cognitive load theory).

### **Michaela Neto**

Michaela is a first-year Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) student at the University of Wollongong, hoping to complete her Honours program, move on to a Masters or Ph.D. and become a registered psychologist. Diverse interests include dance, music and acting within creative arts, but she also finds education to be an exciting field. She was drawn to the study of psychology to better understand motivation in these contexts as well as for the purpose of helping others. Even at this early stage in her degree, Michaela finds herself highly influenced by humanistic thought and positivism. She wishes to study further in these areas and gain necessary practical skills for counselling and other interventions.

### **Alexia Ohtaras**

Alexia is a first-year Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) student at the University of Wollongong. Since a young age, Alexia has had a strong passion for helping others. Through this degree, Alexia hopes to gain a greater insight into the human condition while obtaining a deeper understanding of others, as well as herself. Alexia believes that this path will lead her into extremely rewarding experiences that she can hopefully make her profession. After she graduates, Alexia wishes to become a certified psychologist and have her own practice. She is also aiming toward contributing to the field through research and literature. With this, she would also like to venture out of the country and practice as a psychologist abroad, to explore different dynamics and expand her opportunities for experiences.