

# STUDENT STORY



## Mary-Clare

### Area of study:

PhD in Mentoring and Coaching (Education)

### Why did you choose your field of study?

I feel really passionate about teacher education and supporting the next generation of teachers. In particular, I'm very interested in how we can better support young teachers and their mentors and their mentoring practices.

### How important has CUC Bass Coast been to your studies?

CUC has been such a help. At the end of 2022, I was seriously considering stopping my PhD. I felt really disconnected from any type of research community, especially living in rural Victoria. My motivation was dwindling and as a woman in her late 30s, I was thinking perhaps I should put my study on hold and focus on starting a family.

Since finding CUC, I've been able to ignite my passion for learning and most importantly get some momentum back into my writing and research. Just having a dedicated study space that I can easily get to, supportive staff that regularly check in and a welcoming student body means I'm back on track with my research again. I've been able to maintain this right throughout my pregnancy- a big win for an expecting first time mom.

### How do you plan to apply your knowledge and skills after graduation?

I'm hoping to get involved in some Department of education projects and also pursue my career into academia in teacher education.

### Share with us some of your proudest moments as a student.

I found out 4 weeks after having my baby that my first research paper has now been accepted into an academic journal with minor revisions. I only started designing and writing this article after joining CUC at the start of the year; a total 360 considering how much I had struggled to build momentum when studying from home on my own.

### Please share any insights you have gained along your learning journey.

Community is so important to aid motivation and commitment- it's the people that encouraged me to keep coming back. There is also huge benefit in having a designated study hub that is easy to access and just showing up regularly at CUC, even if it's just short study sessions.