



MineGeoTech

Aspire Scholarship Spotlight: Aleksandr Krasnov

Inspiring students from remote areas to pursue STEM pathways at the University of Queensland.

MINEGEOTECH ASPIRE SCHOLAR

Name: Aleksandr Krasnov (on the left)

Age: 18

Degree: Combined Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) (first year)

Scholarship: MineGeoTech Aspire Scholarship
2025 Recipient



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MINEGEOTECH

At the heart of it, we at MGT want to give back to the communities which we have grown up with and support young adults with aspirations who could use a helping hand.

We aim to achieve this by improving educational opportunities for students to study STEM subjects from remote or very remote areas (not restricted to the state of Queensland, anyone can apply as long as they meet the application criteria). In supporting development within the STEM fields, we improve society as a whole.

A PERSONAL CONNECTION

John Player was raised and educated in Mt Isa, Western Queensland and has a long family association with mining and the outback. He attended the University of Queensland (UQ) from 1989 to 1993, initially with the idea of doing Genetic Engineering but changing to Mining Engineering. John found his first year difficult coming from a rural area and being away from his family and support network.

He has since gone on to achieve a Master's Degree, a PhD, worked on remote mine sites for over a decade, and is the founder of MineGeoTech.

ABOUT **ALEKSANDR**

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, WHERE YOU GREW UP, AND YOUR FAMILY.

I was born in Russia and my family are Russian, I have a small family. When I was younger, under the age of one, we moved to Melbourne, Victoria.

I spent most of my childhood there before leaving Melbourne to live in Airlie Beach in 2021, near the Whitsunday Islands. I then finished my school years in Proserpine, a rural town 26km from Airlie Beach.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY ABOUT GROWING UP IN THE WHITSUNDAY REGION?

We moved to Airlie Beach because my father loves the beach and the outdoors. The weather was also a deciding factor when moving - my dad prefers the warm, stable weather in Queensland over the harsher weather in Melbourne.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MINEGEOTECH ASPIRE SCHOLARSHIP?

I was researching scholarships online through the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) system and came across the Aspire Scholarship with MineGeoTech - I read the criteria and applied.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION AND ATTEND UNIVERSITY?

Passionate teachers I've had throughout my school life contributed and inspired me to further my education.

I had a volleyball coach in Proserpine who influenced my interest in university. He was knowledgeable, hardworking and disciplined, and I viewed him as a role model.

I was keen to attend university so I could also become more knowledgeable and disciplined.

“ I knew that university could open multiple pathways and options in engineering, this is why I chose to go. ”

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE UQ AS YOUR PLACE OF STUDY?

Living at Airlie Beach, the closest university was already a four-hour drive away and did not specialise in engineering. Because of this, I decided to research other universities further away from home. I considered Melbourne, since I already have family there, however I chose the University of Queensland because it had better rankings, is well known for engineering and only a one-hour flight from home.

I really liked the campus at the university and wanted to stay in Queensland because of the volleyball scene here!

Now that I'm here, I can see the University of Queensland and studying engineering can open lots of positive possibilities and pathways for me and my career.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SPECIFIC STEM FIELD OF STUDY?



In school I had always been more interested in STEM over literature and humanities. The idea of making robots, gizmos and understanding the science and structure behind those specifically, seems really cool to me.

I also had a specific teacher in primary school who inspired me to go into engineering. He was my favourite teacher, and he happened to do engineering himself. Throughout my life I've had excellent experiences with people who are engineers or in the industry, and that's stuck with me and backed my choice to do engineering myself.

I'm currently in my first flexible year of engineering - we cover a wide range of different types of engineering - I can then choose a specialty I'd like to further my expertise in.

For my second year, I am keen to study mechatronic engineering - this combines mechanical, electrical and software engineering. Specialising in mechatronic engineering will hopefully help me venture into robotic studies and automation, this is an area I am currently considering for my career.

HOW HAS THE SCHOLARSHIP HELPED YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

One of the main impacts the scholarship has had on my experience is that it's allowed me to explore other avenues of life, as well as studying.

The scholarship has meant I can pursue things I enjoy, such as volleyball, leading me to qualify for the state team and travel for events, for example the 2025 Australian Junior Volleyball Championship in Adelaide.



WHAT ARE YOU ENJOYING ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY LIFESTYLE?

Since starting university, I've managed to create a diverse support network around me. This has helped me when moving to a new big city.

I've done this by joining multiple societies, clubs and activities – such as the UQ mechanical engineering club, trivia nights and the Russian conversation club (as I'm bilingual!)

Being on the state volleyball team, I play four to five times a week. Being able to make connections outside of my course has been really beneficial for me.

I've even connected with a third-year mechatronics student who was coaching my volleyball team; he invited me to help create and build a pressure plate measuring the pressure exerted by the player and how high they could jump.

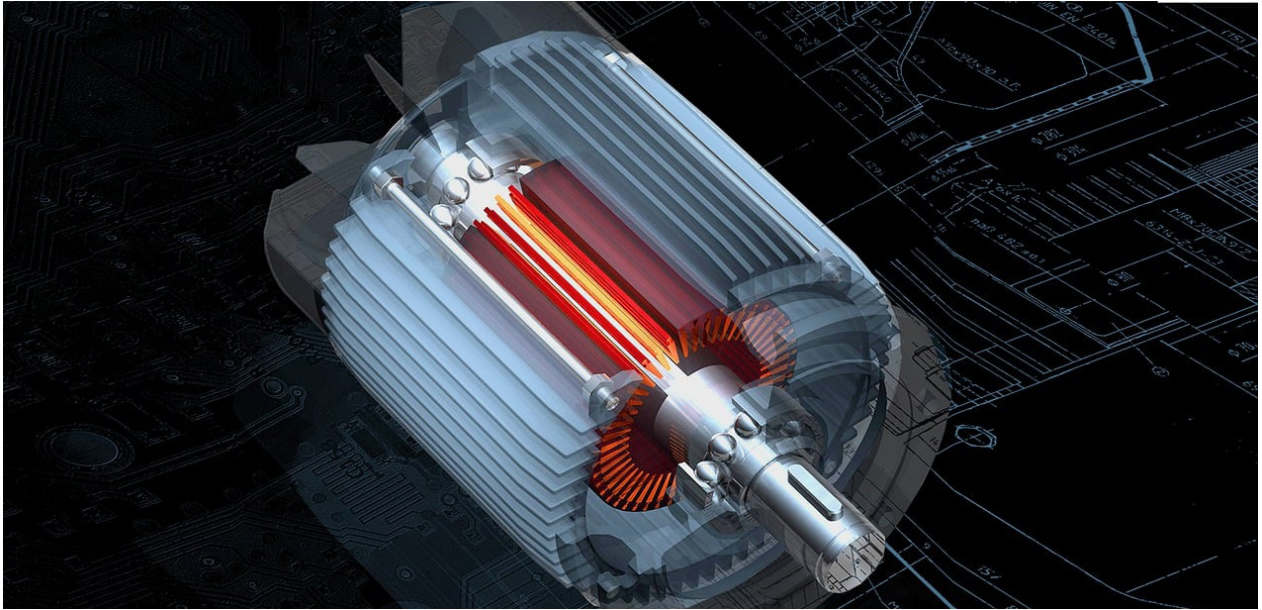
It was cool to make a link between engineering and athletics.

ONE THING YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT BEFORE YOU STARTED UNIVERSITY.

So far, university life has been what I expected, if not better. My initial view of university was that it would consist of learning at lectures, then going home. However, there's so much extra curriculum activities to get involved in – societies etc!

Sometimes I'll be walking through the campus after a lecture, and there'll be dancers practicing on the grass, food trucks and market stalls. There always seems to be something to do!

At first, I did not realise the impact of attending lectures in person and sometimes chose to attend online rather than going into university. However, over time I have learnt that the in-person sessions are pivotal to my learning, especially in engineering as it's very practical.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO AFTER UNIVERSITY?

I'm not entirely sure what it looks like to work and gain experience in the robotic and automation industry yet, but I'm excited to get some experience and see what my career could look like.

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WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER ASPIRING STUDENTS?

I would advise them to build a better study schedule from the start. This means blocking out distractions (such as your phone!) and finding ways to stop procrastinating.

One thing that helps and motivates me now is to reward myself with things I enjoy.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Find out more about the causes we support:

www.minegeotech.com.au/community

Learn more about the University of Queensland Aspire Scholarship Program:

<https://scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/minegeotech-scholarship>



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