

# CHARLOTTE TURNER

## MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CHINESE) UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – English, Legal Studies, History, Further Mathematics Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Religion & Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement
- Year 12 – English, Legal Studies, History, Politics, Sociology

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I chose these subjects because I loved to read and write and was interested in current affairs and politics. In Year 10, I set my sights on studying a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) at The University of Melbourne, which required an ATAR score of 98. I had always achieved high marks in humanities subjects (and not so high marks in Maths and Science based subjects!) and decided that taking on a full load of humanities subjects and playing to my strengths would give me the best chance of achieving the ATAR score I needed.

I also genuinely loved the subjects I undertook, particularly in Year 12. I was obsessed with history, politics and current affairs and used Year 12 as an opportunity to pursue those interests. I would contribute my success in VCE to this decision – it is much easier to study (and succeed) at the things you are passionate about

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I relied heavily on the advice of my parents (I was lucky enough to have my mother as my English and Politics teacher) and the College Careers Adviser. I also spoke with my teachers from Years 9, 10 & 11 about where they thought my strengths were and they offered suggestions on the subjects they thought I would enjoy and excel in.

**What courses have you completed and where?** I completed a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) at The University of Melbourne in 2012. I then completed a Master of International Relations at the University of Melbourne in 2015. I am currently continuing my Chinese language studies at the Australian National University in Canberra, whilst working in the public service

**What was your course like?** My Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) course and Master of International Relations was challenging but extremely engaging. I was required to read (a lot!) and write quickly and succinctly under pressure. Over the six years, I developed strong verbal and written communication skills and critical and analytical abilities. I also had the opportunity to study with intelligent and articulate people who shared my passions and perspectives – and also those who challenged them!.

University is very different to high school – your learning is self-directed and you have the opportunity to pursue a broad range of subjects before specialising in your area of interest later on. The Melbourne Model at the University of Melbourne is a very well-structured program for someone who is a little unsure of exactly what they want to do and are looking to experience a broad range of subject areas before narrowing to a specific field at Masters level.

### **What have been some of the best parts of your course?**

- Completing an internship at the ABC Newsroom in Melbourne during the final year of my course.
- Having the opportunity to travel overseas to India and China to study at different universities.
- Learning a language (Mandarin Chinese).
- Teaching staff – having the opportunity to learn from and build relationships with leading academics in my field.
- Extra-curricular opportunities – including attending St. Mary's College and joining clubs and societies.

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** My subjects at school prepared me very well for studying Media & Communications and International Studies at university. The fundamentals of reading a text, pulling out the key themes and writing persuasively for your point of view are essential skills, which I learnt in classes like English, History, Politics, Sociology, Legal Studies, and applied at university.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** Last year I was working in the Communications Team at the University of Melbourne, working across the Digital Media platforms for the University. I am currently working for the public service in Canberra. I am an analyst at the Australian National Audit Office, where I work on Department of Defence policy.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** What I loved about my job last year was that I got to work within the communications team for a University – which involved investigating and writing about the University's research and academic programs for students and alumni. Quite often I had the opportunity to work on projects that I was passionate about and which were intellectually stimulating. Working across digital media, I was also required to react to online news trends and breaking news. This meant that everyday I got to work on something different and unexpected!

I love my current job because everyday I have the opportunity to contribute to designing and implementing better public policy. I am also further developing my analytical abilities and writing skills and building a strong knowledge of Australian Defence policy

### **Coure information:**

Bachelor of Arts, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/29xUNN2>

Masters of International Relations, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/29rQgaD>