

# CONNOR CALLISTER

## SECONDARY TEACHING (BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY) LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – Chemistry, English, French, Physical Education, Youth Ministry, Mathematical Methods Units 3+4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12 – Chemistry, English, French, Physical Education, Biology.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I enjoyed Chemistry, French and Physical Education, English was compulsory, and I took up Biology in Year 12 because I knew it would help my Chemistry, and also I wasn't sure what I was going to do at uni, but I thought doing Biology would make it easier to get into science subjects.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I kept most of my subjects the same each year, but when I had to pick up a new subject in Year 12, the College Career Adviser, my Learning Mentor and other students were my most persuasive influences.

**What is your course like?** The science subjects in my course are really interesting. Basically they share the same concepts as science did at school, just on a more advanced level. Science subjects can be quite time consuming at university though; last semester I had 7 contact hours each for both chemistry and biology per week (3x1hr lecture, 1x3hr lab class, and a 1hr tutorial).

**What do you love about your course?** The lectures are really interesting, the staff and fellow students are always approachable and willing to help, the La Trobe community is a great resource in that respect, and the University is a fun place to be, particularly for students who live on-res like myself.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course:** This was my Monday last semester: 9am: Biology lecture, 10am: Chemistry lecture, 12pm: Chemistry tutorial, 2pm: Biology lab class.

**What have been some of the highlights of your course so far:** I've really enjoyed using really cool tech equipment in the labs.

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** Science from school is fundamental in giving you the experience to understand concepts at a university level. English is important too, even in Biology I had to write an essay last semester.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals?** Don't let anyone else tell you what course you should do. It's your life, it's your choice.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying the course?** Study hard enough to do as well as you'd like, but don't put too much pressure on yourself either.

**What are your future career goals?** Either teaching science at school, or working in labs on research projects.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary), La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/29zxYYx>