

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>