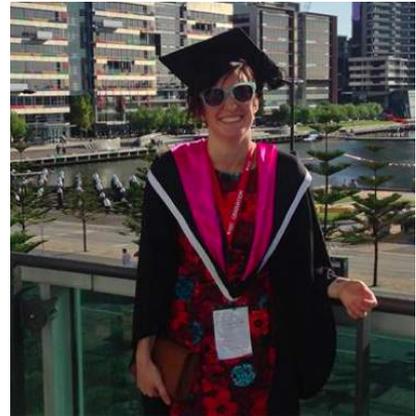


ELOISE FLORENCE

JOURNALISM (HONOURS), RMIT

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – English, History, Text and Traditions Units 3 + 4
Early Advancement, Psychology, Mathematical Methods, Drama
- Year 12 – Literature, History, Psychology, Sociology, Drama



Why did you choose these subjects? Going into Year 11 and 12 I really didn't know what I wanted to do at uni, so I just chose subjects that I thought I would enjoy the most. I really love reading and writing which is why I did lots of English, Literature and humanities studies, and the Drama and Woodworking subjects were more to keep me sane and give me something more practical to do to balance out the theory heavy subjects.

I had looked at a few courses like journalism, arts and law, and they all needed a fairly decent score in an English subject. This affected how hard I worked at my Literature subject, but I was always fairly confident with it because I enjoyed it and was fairly good at it.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? Grown-ups! My parents were amazing at knowing what I really liked and pushing me towards that, but the teachers and the College Career Adviser were really a great source of wisdom for what the subjects would involve and what I would be good at/enjoy. They were always, always, always right, even if at the time I didn't think so. The Senior Course Guide was a really great place to start, to get a broad idea of what was on offer and had really easy descriptions of the course content.

What was your Bachelor degree like? My course was mostly really great. You get a good mix of general communication subjects (where you're in classes with people from advertising, public relations, media studies, professional communications etc.) and journalism specific studies, where you learn to write stories, film TV packages, record radio packages and edit things all together. In your final year you get to publish an actual newspaper with your peers, record and appear in an actual 60 minute TV news program that goes live to air, as well as produce and record a 10 minute news segment on the radio.

So it's all very "real world". It has a compulsory internship, where you get to work in real life newsrooms, and I was lucky enough to work in one in Cambodia for three weeks, as well as a few other ones locally. You also get to choose a co-major, which you study for the whole 3 years – I chose Political Communication, but you can also do Cinema Studies, Asian Studies or Literature and Philosophy.

What were some of the best parts of the course? I've outlined this mostly up above, but the best parts are probably the real-world nature of the course and your options to specialise in what you're really interested in. My favourite subjects were probably the ones where you worked directly on your writing – I love writing, and having people who had worked as journalists for 20-30 years coaching you and helping you be a better writer was pretty amazing.

The opportunities to travel were also really great. I won a grant to do my internship at the Phnom Penh Post in Cambodia, and the uni really supported and helped me out through the whole process.

The internships were probably most useful though, in showing me that being a journalist and working in a newsroom really wasn't something I wanted to do. If I hadn't done the experience parts of the course, I would've probably got a job in a newsroom once I had graduated and only then would I have realised I didn't really like it. So it was really helpful in helping me figure out what I actually wanted to do as a career – learning stuff!

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course? The scholarly skills you learn in humanities and literature subjects are invaluable. It's so good to have a working knowledge of how to write an essay, how to reference properly, how to find information at the library, how to take your notes and turn them into an essay. So many fellow uni students didn't and they really struggled with this part. Also a good knowledge of writing helped a lot with writing essays, as well as when we started to learn about subediting articles – knowing the difference between “tone” and “mood”, for example, or knowing where to put a comma and where to start a new sentence.

Having a base knowledge about “how the world works” was good as well – it's easier to write about Australian politics if you know how the parliamentary system works, and when you're learning about the history and theories of communication its good to know who some big thinkers and writers are already.

I've since realised that my passion is in learning and writing about history, politics and culture, which, if you look at my subjects in high school, I probably should have figured out a good while ago. So, doing what I really loved in high school helped me figure out what I really love doing in my career.

What are you doing now in your graduate studies? Last year I completed an Honours degree in Journalism, which was like an extra year for independent research. I wrote a thesis about the relationship between myths and news, and how they help make national consciousness. I am now undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and I hope to study overseas.

What are your goals for the future once you graduate? I want to complete my PhD in history and cultural studies, hopefully overseas. After that, who knows! I'd love to write a book, maybe teach at a university, and maybe one day move into diplomatic or international relations or something like that. Maybe I'll be the next Emma Watson at the UN or something, I don't know. All I know is that it will involve reading, writing and trying to save the world a little bit. My three loves.

Contact: Eloise is happy for Catholic College students to contact her for further advice about choosing subjects and/or studying journalism - ellie.f_88@hotmail.com

Course information - Bachelor of Communication (Journalism), RMIT, <http://bit.ly/29GPnO9>