



CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE  
WODONGA

LIFE IN JESUS

# CHOOSING SENIOR SCHOOL SUBJECTS

ADVICE FROM PAST STUDENTS:  
ENGLISH, HUMANITIES, RELIGION, LOTE



# OVERVIEW

The following pages contain interviews with past Catholic College students who are studying courses or working in occupations related to English, languages other than English (LOTE), Religion and Humanities. The aim of the resource is to assist students to select Senior School subjects.

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# ELIZABETH HARRIS

## LAW/ARTS (ART HISTORY AND FRENCH)

### AUSTRALIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Mathematics: Pre-General, French, Religion/CEPD, History: People and Power Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English, French, Psychology, Religion, Classical Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement
- Year 12: English, French, History: Revolutions, Global Politics, Australian Politics

**Why did you choose these subjects?** None of the degrees I was considering had prerequisites other than English, so I was free to choose subjects that I wanted to study. All of my subjects were ones that I had a deep interest in, but some I thought of as necessary, for example French, as I think that studying a LOTE subject is important in terms of employability and giving you more options at university (I will always be glad I did not have to start French at university). Studying a language also involves a different way of thinking and studying compared to other subjects, so I was grateful to have French to keep me motivated.

I have always loved history, and planned to study it at university, and was particularly interested in the American and Russian revolutions, so Revolutions was a perfect subject; studying a subject at school that you think you may study at university also allows you to obtain the skills you need to study that subject. I studied three subjects by distance education while at CCW (History 1-2, Classical Studies 3-4, Global Politics 3-4). I was particularly interested in these subjects, but also thought that studying by distance would be good preparation for university, where independent study skills are truly essential

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I discussed my subject selections with my parents and my Learning Mentor; they were my sounding board for subject choices throughout senior school. I spoke to my English teachers regarding my choice of which English subject to do for the VCE (Core English or Literature) and they were really helpful in terms of balancing up the different factors at play in subject selection (for example, scaling – although I don't think that this should ever be a primary concern – and the different ways that students have to deal with the material).

I also read through the study guides for the 3-4 subjects I was considering, which gave me a more explicit idea of what studying the subject would really mean (for example, is the subject analytic, what areas of the subject are dealt with in the course).

**What is your course like?** Law is very reading intense, but as you progress your degree you learn that the most important things you will learn at law school are the skills to practice as a lawyer. However, studying law is great not only if you want to practice as a barrister or solicitor, but will be a valued degree in many sectors. The exciting thing about law is that even if you are studying a discreet area, such as Corporations Law, you are also learning skills which will serve you in good stead in any career.

Art History is a very different kind of study to law. I like to think of it as being like studying English, but looking at artwork rather than reading. It allows me to express myself creatively, and I think in any degree it's a good idea to have some balance in the types of thinking you cultivate in yourself.

French at the ANU is broken into four types of classes/lectures: Writing, Culture/Oral, Literature and Grammar. I had three equally fantastic lecturers in French, which for LOTE, where your level of competency can differ between the areas of learning, is great, as it means you have multiple people with different specialisations whom you can ask for help.

**How your senior subjects prepare you for your university course?** Having started university I am so thankful that I chose the subjects that I did.

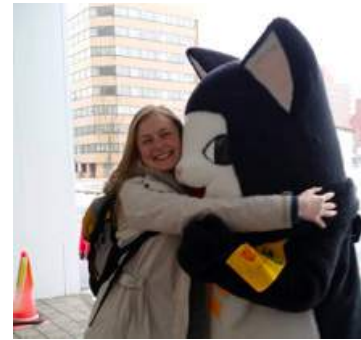
- **French 3-4** in particular was helpful; it involved a detailed study, which is reflective of the way that you learn LOTE at university.
- **English:** At the time, it was painful learning how to précis my work for English SACs, but I'm so glad I learned how to write more succinctly, which is an asset at university where word limits are very strict.
- **Australian Politics** involved researching current political affairs outside of class, and I'm grateful for this because studying at university requires going beyond what is said in lectures to find out things for yourself – studying politics or any other civic education subject (like legal studies) is wonderful because you also learn about the way society works, which I think is integral to successful study whether or not you intend to study these subjects at university

**Course information:** Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Arts (Art History and French), Australia National University, <http://bit.ly/2959Xu0>

# LARA WOJCIK

## LANGUAGES (GERMAN)/ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

### AUSTRALIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: Exchange to Japan
- Year 11: English, History, Mathematical Methods, Japanese, Legal Studies, Religion and Society
- Year 12: English, Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, History, Japanese

**Why did you choose these subjects?** Apart from the compulsory subjects, I chose my other classes because I really enjoyed them and I had some great teachers.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I talked to my parents and chose the classes I enjoyed.

**What is your course like?** My course is amazing. The Australia National University allows students to combine a number of degrees in a flexible double degree. I combined a Bachelor of Languages majoring in German with a Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies majoring in Japanese. The flexible double has allowed me to also study Linguistics and Cultural Studies.

**What do you love about your course?** I love the range of subjects and high level language courses I get to choose from every semester with my degrees; however, the best part of my degrees are the various opportunities to do exchange programs. So far I have completed two short-term exchanges in Japan, a six-month exchange in Germany and currently I'm participating in the 'Year in Asia' program in Tokyo. Furthermore, I have received financial support for all these exchanges including one fully paid trip in Japan

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** Learning Japanese in Year 7 at Catholic College uncovered my passion for the Japanese language and languages in general, which has led to my choice in degrees and career direction.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Languages/Bachelor of Asia Studies, Australia National University, <http://bit.ly/295brED>

# BRONTE SPITERI

## POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/FRENCH

### UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, French, Teenagers and the Law, Religion/CEPD, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English Language, French, Youth Ministry, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English Language, French, Sociology, Australian Politics, History Revolutions.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** When choosing my subjects, I wanted to keep my options open. I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to study, and I was in a weird position where I enjoyed both science based subjects and humanities. As you can see in Year 10 and 11 I had mix of the two areas. Mathematical Methods is a prerequisite for a lot of science courses at university so I kept that. I always intended to do Chemistry in Year 12 but I didn't love it as much as my other subjects. When choosing subjects for Year 12 I thought about how I felt when studying for Methods and Legal Studies.

The difference was that I loved studying for legal, whereas it was harder to motivate myself to study for Methods and I didn't want that to be the case with Chemistry in Year 12. So I swapped it for History (and I'm so glad I did). I thought that the English Language course suited me better than core English, and I found it really interesting. I was always going to do Sociology and Politics because I'd heard a lot of good things about the subjects and I loved learning and reading about it in my spare time so it was a no brainer. Finally, I love France, learning about different cultures and have always enjoyed studying French and learning a new language since Year 7. So it just made sense for me to continue in senior school, and I've continued again at university. I've probably missed a whole heap of the other reasons I chose each subject- I thought a lot about it.

I think the most important thing is to choose the subjects you'll enjoy most, rather than the ones that have bonus marks in Year 12 or that you "should" do. In saying that think carefully about things you may want to pursue after school and try not to limit your options through subject selection. But there is usually a way to catch up on what you've missed at uni anyway if you don't do a prerequisite.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I spoke to my mum a lot about subject selection, and I spoke to some of my teachers who had taught me particular subjects. It was also really useful talking to students in the year levels above who had already done them. They give you different perspectives to what teachers can offer.

Basically just try and find out as much information as you can from as many different sources as possible. It is definitely important to think about potential career paths/university degrees/TAFE courses etc. that may require you to study certain things. If you're unsure about what you want to do, like I was, then try and keep your options open through your subject selection

**What is your course like?** I love my course. I am doing a double major in Politics & International Studies and French. I think the two go together perfectly and will really benefit each other. I love the Melbourne University Model, as doing a broader undergraduate degree allows me to study the areas I enjoy whilst keeping lots of doors open for me. I absolutely love studying French at university. I find the classes enjoyable, interesting and so much more than just about the language. It's about the culture and history of French speaking countries as well.

I love traveling and learning about new cultures and the relationships between different nations, so international studies is something I find really interesting. Studying French only benefits that part of my degree. The course also has a lot of opportunities for exchange to a number of different universities and for short courses in the summer and winter breaks overseas. The other great thing about the Melbourne Model is that over your degree you have to do a couple of 'breadth' subjects, which means subjects from another course. This has suited me perfectly, as I have been able to do a commerce and a genetics subject whilst studying predominantly humanities. It has been really good to still get a bit of a variety in the subjects I do

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** There is no doubt that Australian Politics, History Revolutions, Sociology and Legal Studies have helped when studying my current subjects. They gave me a really good basis for a lot of the subjects in my major. We learn about those things from high school in a lot more depth, and go even further (as you'd imagine). French was useful because it meant I could go into a higher level/standard/stream at university.

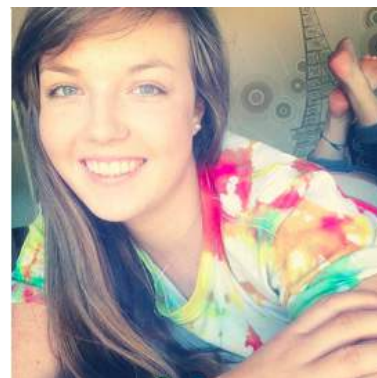
But that doesn't mean that you can't study a language without studying it at high school. They have three entry levels for different standards of French. I'm really glad I did French at school because it is where I started to love the language and decide I wanted to keep learning and speak fluently.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Arts, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1R1tkxf>

# BRITTANY STONES

## EUROPEAN STUDIES

## AUSTRALIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



### Senior School Subjects

- Exchange - France
- Year 11: English, French Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, General Mathematics, Religion, Media, Visual Communication Design
- Year 12: English, Further Mathematics, Legal Studies, Media, Visual Communication Design.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I chose to do Mathematics, as it's a subject I enjoyed and is always useful. I advanced in French because of a student exchange to France I did through Rotary. I wanted to challenge myself and thought that it would be interesting to advance in French. My other subjects I chose because they sounded interesting and I wanted to enjoy my subjects.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** My parents helped me a lot with my subject choices leading into Year 11 as it was the first time I had a lot of options for subjects to choose at school and I was overseas when I had to choose them. I read the Senior Course Guide to give me an idea of what sort of subjects I was interested in going into.

**What was your course like?** I enjoyed the course last year - it was very interesting. I was majoring in Contemporary Europe and minoring in French Language and Culture. I advanced in this area and completed third year subjects in first year. I also specialised in Spanish. I chose Business Management as an elective to give myself another challenge and try something new.

**What did you love about your course?** My course was quite good in that I could choose majors and minors that interested me, and it was quite broad which meant that I could pick subjects that suited me.

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** The subjects I did at school didn't really lead me into this field of study with the exception of French. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was at school, so I couldn't choose subjects that would help me.

**Course information:** Bachelor of European Studies, Australia National University, <http://bit.ly/29lqckH>



# MIKAELA BLACKLEY

## JAPANESE, SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, Japanese, Religion and Society, Sociology, Legal Studies, Psychology
- Year 12: English, Japanese, Sociology, Legal Studies, Psychology

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I've had a passion for Japanese since primary school and have always wanted to become an interpreter, so studying Japanese is very important to me. Psychology, Sociology and Legal Studies always interested me as subjects, which is why I chose to continue them in Year 12.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I asked students that were in the year level above mine in my Learning Mentor about what they thought of their subjects, such as Psychology and Sociology, and consulted with my teachers and the Senior Course Guide about what subjects would suit me.

**What is your course like?** I study a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Japanese at Swinburne University of Technology in Hawthorn, Melbourne. The teachers are fantastic and very helpful when it comes to learning and memorising the material. In order to help us memorise new vocabulary and Kanji characters, there are usually two tests a week – while this seems a little tough, it's significantly helpful with learning new material and benefits everyone greatly.

**What do you love about your course?** Honestly, everything about it – the teachers in my course are approachable and helpful, and have created many ways to make it easier for students to learn new material. They are always happy to assist with anything and respond to queries, both in person and through email, efficiently. Because everyone in my course is basically studying the same thing, and everyone wants to be there to study, we all get along and help each other. I made great friends right from the first day in my course, which has been really amazing.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course:** There are two Japanese classes which both go for two hours, and there is no lecture. In the first class, the first half is dedicated to learning and practising new grammar – the second half, with a new teacher, is dedicated to Kanji and reading comprehension. The second class, with just one teacher, typically revises the grammar learnt earlier in the week and also teaches new vocabulary. This is the case for the Advanced Japanese Stream at Swinburne, which is for students who have completed Year 12 Japanese.

In addition to the regular Japanese classes last semester I also had to do the subject Introduction to Language, or, simply, Linguistics. Linguistics consists of one two-hour lecture and an hour long tutorial, where we analyse and look at the way words are pronounced and constructed in languages all around the world. Next semester, as part of my Japanese course, I will be studying Japanese and Chinese civilisations.

### How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?

**Japanese:** Because I studied Japanese all through high school, it really helped with understanding the topics in my course, and allowed me to enter the Advanced Stream at Swinburne so that I can get more out of my subjects.

**Psychology** and **Sociology** were also helpful when it came to Linguistics, as we did cover areas of the brain that focus on language among other things I had previously studied in high school.

**What have been some of the highlights of your course so far?** All the friends I've made, I think. It's very different from high school – you're studying the subjects you want to study, and everyone else is in the same boat as you, so you make friends really easily, and that really helps when it comes to understanding what you're learning and also studying with friends.

The teachers in my course are all really wonderful and have been able to help me with everything, especially the material I have trouble understanding at first. Swinburne's online system is immensely useful when it comes to asking for help or clarification on subject material and teachers always respond quickly.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals?** Probably just to keep at it, and to do what you enjoy. Try and find a mix of what you're good at and what you like to study, and follow that – if you aren't enjoying what you're studying then look for something else.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying this course?** Definitely try and attend the Swinburne Open Day, as it's a really fun and informative day where you can get a lot of information on this course. Keep your Japanese books and other materials from high school with you, they'll be incredibly helpful when it comes to going over things you have previously learnt at school. Try and get as much practice with Japanese in as you can each week, whether it be going over grammar or Kanji, as the course here is somewhat fast-paced.

**What are your future career goals?** In the long-term, I want to become a Japanese interpreter, whether it be for a business or for tourism. A short-term goal I have is to interpret for Australian athletes at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which I can volunteer for, so I hope to achieve that as it would be an incredible experience.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Arts (Japanese), Swinburne University, <http://bit.ly/1M3OpLt>

# 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

### **Course information:**

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

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

# TONY PHILLIPS

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/ECONOMICS HOLMESGLEN INSTITUTE

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, General Mathematics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Sociology, Religious Studies
- Year 12: English Language, Further Mathematics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Legal Studies

**Why did you choose these subjects?** During high school, I was more dedicated to my job than I was my school studies, so I chose subjects which would keep me motivated and enjoying my time in secondary school. The first of these was Outdoor and Environmental Studies, which enabled me to do something outside the classroom, and break up my year with trips, and a new type of experience. I loved Outdoor and Environmental Studies- it enlightens your time at CCW by giving you an outlet, and an opportunity to go outside your comfort zone and appreciate a different type of education- while still being heavily based on ecological, sustainable and environmental factors.

For my course, I did not require Mathematical Methods, only General Maths and therefore I chose an option I would be able to achieve a higher score in- being Further Mathematics. This provided me with the necessary skillset and mindset to be able to work out complex (but overall 'useful') mathematical formulae, definitions and I could understand more freely the basis for which you 'nut things out'.

As a professional, I now understand the benefits of doing English Language. Understanding the types of colloquial language used by different groups, and having a different perspective on how people utilise language to engage in different environments is underrated within the curriculum and in the Construction Industry; communication is one of the key skills to being able to manage lots of different personnel.

Overall my subjects were 50% based on enjoyment and motivation and 50% based on meeting the objectives of my prerequisites for the Industry as a whole. I did not plan on a specific 'course' so to speak until I had recognised what I wanted to specialise in. My field (Construction Management and Development Contracting) relied on a basis of understanding people's needs, financial data and how they are applied in a holistic way to provide useful and reliable information to clientele.

Overall my one piece of advice in choosing subjects in Year 10 and 11 is to avoid advancing in subjects you do not love, just because your grades reflect a high level of knowledge. The sequence of exposing yourself to 11 & 12 level curriculums can be a burden on how you enjoy your time at school. Motivating yourself to enjoy your time and embrace subjects you enjoy rather than what you see yourself as good at, can really help you to make decisions later.

Sometimes fast tracking things in high school can burn you out before you get to Year 12. Your ATAR should be the focus of Year 12, and you shouldn't burn yourself out prior. I think that's extremely important. Consider how much you love a subject, and how well you do in it- it's not about how smart you are, it's about what you want to do in the future.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I had been working within the industry (work experience) each school holidays in Melbourne. This enabled me to gain a rapport within the industry early on. Through working for a main stream commercial builder in Melbourne, I was able to ask questions, gain knowledge around the subjects required, and then could also talk to my parents (also in the industry) about what basic expertise I would need to be able to continue on within the construction management sector. I also had the College Careers Advisor help me establish options. It is important within the construction sector (particularly talking about corporate and executive engineering, design and management roles) to know people, become exposed and make yourself known to people who already work within the Industry. Word of mouth is still the best possible method for gaining insight into the industry's professional requirements.

**What is your course like?** My course provides the best possible exposure and education when approaching construction management, contracts administration, financial development skills and building surveying skills. The Problem-Based learning style of the institute becomes an integral part of achieving your professional competency. The construction industry is a hard industry, and the corporate roles played by project and construction managers within construction is based around financial background, people skills and an ability to envisage structures, their components, characteristics, architectural style and land surveying and regulatory practices.

**What do you love about your course?** I love my course. I really do- it's not the university lifestyle some people recognise as 'standard' work loads, and the course is demanding and quite advanced (for example I was the youngest applicant to the degree by 17 years). The course reflects values that are handy to have already- such as a background of the industry, some basic experience and a passion for building, evaluation, cost in use and management of people and works.

We often do retreats to learning centres, where we carry out studies and team building exercises, and professional competencies around programming are carried out regularly, and the overall framework of these trips are to teach us as young professionals, the hardships of an industry where every job is unique (unlike manufacturing where processes are repeated for instance).

We do weekly if not more often trips to sites around the Greater Melbourne area, as well as new suburbs and large-scale developments to understand the layouts, components, conditions and overall structure of the development as it unfolds, and complete journal's and professional case studies and tools to better understand the nature of a residential development. The course teaches you to manage, direct and perform construction management and financial economic skills from sites \$500,000 through to \$100 Million.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** The most effective way my schooling helped me to prepare for the intense university course I chose, was the organisation, routine and the overall ability to ask for support where needed more so than the subjects themselves.

If you choose to do a degree which is very demanding, focus on choosing an English which teaches you the skills of syntax, report styles, different professional terms and how they are utilised within different scopes of writing, and then how those scopes are applied - for instance referencing, italics, sums and the structure of essays and writing skills alike. English Literature would assist in this.

If you are not a strong communicator- take on **English Language** as your choice of English. English Language opened my vocabulary to understand different logistical characteristics, particularly those utilised by different groups, professionals and particularly slang terms and how the slang is utilised when understanding and relating to different groups of people. This is very important in a diverse industry like construction.

**Accounting** is handy to learn the minimum (or basics) associated with how more complex cash flows, ledgers and structures are utilised in the Life Cycle Costing associated with larger building projects- it's very handy to understand how the sums you utilise in this course are calculated from basic accounting structures.

Take up **Further Mathematics**. Methods is only required if you apply it to an engineering background. If you are thinking about perhaps taking up an engineering area within the industry, and you are not fantastic at maths ensure you are tutored and have applied yourself well during the Year 11 Mathematical Methods. Making the choice to take up Methods over Further is better than narrowing your options later on. Personally, I found more benefit out of taking up Accounting and Further Mathematics, rather than focusing only on the mathematical side of the prerequisites.

Find a subject that doesn't relate to your course! Outlets are every important, and the university side of this course is a challenging lifestyle, and you must have the ability (prior to enrolling within a double degree) to find an outlet you love and apply it to your routine to help you refresh and avoid burning out. Outdoor Education for me was that outlet. It was a completely different field of learning where I could apply different skills and take my mind off the bigger picture for an hour each day or so.

Remember, if you love something enough you'll fight for it. It's not about how good you are at a subject but rather how much you enjoy it!

**Course information:** Bachelor of Building Surveying, Holmesglen Institute, <http://bit.ly/29EL1XJ>

# JAKE CURTIS

## ECONOMICS/FINANCE

### UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, French, Outdoor Education, Teenagers and the Law, Business Accounting, Science, Religion/CEPD.
- Year 11: English, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, French, Physics, Specialist Mathematics.
- Year 12: English, Specialist Mathematics, French, Physics, Business Management.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** For Law, Accounting & Business Management I thought they would be useful to learn about (and they were easily the most useful subjects for my university course). Maths because that's what you do when you're good at maths isn't it? English was compulsory but I also enjoyed it and French and Physics purely out of interest and a desire to be able to understand both.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I saw the College Career Adviser to figure out what would be useful for getting into university, the Senior Course Guide and friends from the year level above.

**What is your course like?** 8 hours of lectures a week and 4 hours of classes, with a lot of self driven learning outside of that. There are more choices of subjects than you can imagine at Melbourne Uni, and all the commerce based subjects interlock and enable you to build a broad understanding of business topics from an economic, financial, accounting, marketing, and management point of view. Economics is a social science, it studies how consumers make decisions, how we can influence those decisions with motivators to make the world better or worse off. A mix of sociology and maths to make sense of the world we live in in a rational, logical manner.

You learn information that is very relevant to the 'real world' often even analysing the economic policy announcements from that very morning on the news. If you want to understand the decision making behind government policy, interest rates, share markets, banks or even just how people decide to spend their own money, economics is a very useful subject to study

**What do you love about your course?** I love learning content that I can look at and immediately apply to how I watch the news and make decisions- it is so satisfying. A lot of people at school and even at university say that they think what they are learning is a waste of time, and I never feel that in a commerce subject.

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course?** Unfortunately with commerce VCE doesn't have many subjects that can help, and CCW didn't run with economics as a subject when I was there. However Accounting, Legal Studies and Business Management subjects (even at a Year 10 level) have proven to be very useful. But really what the school offers is it teaches us how to learn. Also being able to write well and doing high level mathematics are super helpful in many aspects!

**Course information:** Bachelor of Commerce, University of Melbourne, <http://fbe.unimelb.edu.au/>

# TIM BARTLETT

## ACCOUNTING CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY



### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10 – English, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, P.E. For Boys, Religion & Society Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Japanese, Psychology
- Year 11 – English, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Religion & Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Japanese, Accounting, Legal Studies
- Year 12 – English, Japanese, Further Mathematics, Accounting, Legal Studies

### Why did you choose these subjects?

- I chose Mathematical Methods upon recommendation from my mathematics teachers in lower year levels.
- Religion and Society - because it appeared to be the more engaging of the religion based subjects for me personally, as it contained historical content, as well as providing the opportunity to have another Unit 3 + 4 subject under my belt to add to my ATAR score.
- Languages have always been an interest of mine, so Japanese was a subject that I chose because I enjoyed it.
- Finally I chose Accounting and Legal Studies because during Years 10 - 12 I was tossing up between a career in accounting or law. By taking both subjects I was able to get an elementary feel of what each of those careers would entail.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** Largely my reference point in choosing my subjects was the College Careers Adviser. By sitting down with her and discussing the courses that I was interested in at university, she was able to help me choose subjects that would put me in the best position for entry into those courses and for choosing subjects that would allow me to get a feel for those university courses.

**What was your course like?** Studying through Charles Sturt University (CSU) provided me the flexibility to work full time in an accounting traineeship with a local firm, Stewart Tracy & Mylon whilst studying part time. CSU provided a broad range of elective subjects, allowing me to undertake a number of additional law subjects, which assisted in my career path.

**What did you love about your course?** I found the best parts of my course to be the subjects on offer. There were a number of accounting and law subjects that were particularly beneficial to preparing me for a career in accounting.

**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course?** The subjects that I undertook at school gave me a good foundation for first year university. In particular, Accounting Units 3 + 4 and Legal Studies Units 3 + 4 give a good understanding of a lot of the content that is covered in first year accounting and law subjects at university.



**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I was promoted from being a trainee accountant to a graduate accountant with Stewart Tracy & Mylon, performing general business services and audit services.

Following a few months as a graduate with Stewart Tracy & Mylon, I moved firms to Crowe Horwath to a Taxation and Superannuation Technical Advisory role. This graduate position involved assisting with group restructures, complex financial modelling, forensic accounting and providing technical advisory services to a broad range of clients.

I have since moved to Melbourne to undertake an intermediate corporate advisory position with EGA Corporate Advisers. In this role I provide compliance and technical advisory services to industry leading businesses with annual turnovers greater than \$10 million.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** In my current role I am exposed to a large variety of industry leading businesses and have the opportunity to assist them in their compliance as well as provide them with structuring, technical and business management advice. I enjoy the daily challenge of dealing with large businesses who are constantly looking to improve their business practices to maintain their positions as industry leaders.

In addition, I have access to ongoing, interactive professional mentoring to continue my development into a well-rounded expert. Finally I enjoy the opportunity to analyse client structures and provide clients with advice to allow them to structure their enterprises and transactions in the most commercially, financially and tax efficient manner.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Accounting, Charles Sturt University, <http://bit.ly/29EN3qM>

# KATHERINE PADILLA

## FASHION & TEXTILES MERCHANDISING, RMIT

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Mathematics: Pre-Methods, Product Design and Technology - Textiles, P.E. for Girls, Art, Religion/CEPD.
- Year 11: English, Mathematical Methods, Studio Art, Religion, Business Management, Psychology
- Year 12: English, Mathematical Methods, Business Management, Media

**Why did you choose these subjects?** In Years 10 and 11 I chose some subjects based on how much I knew I would enjoy them but throughout it I realised some were rather hard or I found myself not interested in them anymore. I started thinking about what I wanted to study after school and then narrowed my subjects based on what I really needed to study and what I didn't. I originally thought I would study a Bachelor of Commerce so I did Mathematical Methods and Business Management but the course I ended up studying only had the prerequisite of English.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I read the Senior Course Guide to see my choices and went to all the meetings to talk to teachers that were teaching the subjects I was interested in so I could find out if those classes would be good for me.

**What is your course like?** My course has a lot of components involved to it. Classes have textbook and hands-on work such as going to a store and doing a window display, doing our own research, and finding certain fabrics. There's a lot that has to be done outside of the classroom as well as work in class. It is definitely not boring as there's always a lot to do but it's not overwhelming either.

Fashion and textiles merchandising is very full on, it actually does not have that many classes but it does take majority of your time. There's so much work to do but if you're passionate about fashion then it doesn't really feel that horrible working on projects and submitting folios. I love the people that you get to meet, from other students to teachers to people that work in the industry. The fashion world is all about making contacts and you get to meet cool people.

**Describe a day in the life of your course?** There's usually a lecture in the morning at 9.30am and then a class (excell, logistics, marketing, visual merchandising, fashion branding, etc.) I usually finish uni around 3pm.

**What are some of the best parts of your course?** I love the opportunities that I get from my course like study trips. I have undertaken exchange programs to China and New York. I've also loved the opportunity to work with industry partners.

**What advice can you offer students who are considering applying for this course?** Do mathematics and business management at school because it really does help, and maybe a textile class because you have to learn about fabrics, Photoshop, Illustrator and those programs if possible. It helps with the course. Attend the open days for RMIT and find out about the course. Always say yes to everything and make contacts, it's all about who you know in this industry.

## How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course?

- **Mathematics:** was used in my Excel and Fashion Mathematics classes
- **Business Management:** prepared me for subjects in logistics and supply chain management. It involved the same theories and processes just fashion related. I would recommend business management and maybe a textiles course.
- **Textiles:** helped for the design subjects
- **English:** was good as you need to know how to write professional documents, essays and also make your vocabulary and grammar sound profession.

**Future career goals:** I want to work in digital media for a fashion brand. I've also been looking into the events side of fashion lately and would love to do more with that.

**Course information:** Associate Degree in Fashion and Textiles Merchandising, RMIT, <http://bit.ly/1lxnd5K>

# TOM BAREL

## SPORT MANAGEMENT/BUSINESS, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English Language, Physics, Business Management, Mathematical Methods, Physical Education, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Advancement
- Year 12: English Language, Physics, Business Management, Mathematical Methods, Physical Education

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I enjoyed them and it seemed relevant to the different fields I was interested in doing further study in. It helped to decide what I wanted to study.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I started by having a chat to my parents. After that I did some online research of the courses I was interested in, then to finish off I booked an appointment with the really good Careers Adviser that the school made available to us.

**What is your course like?** The sport and recreation side of the course is very similar to the business side of my course. It's just a lot more interesting especially if you have an interest in sport like myself. I find it a lot better than doing just a business degree because everything has a sports twist which if you've grown up around sport it's easier to understand.

It also feels that the sport and recreation part of my course is a lot more hands on in a way. It's not just content there are some practical elements such as writing an article about a month in a year in the Western Bulldogs history, which is documented at Whitten Oval, home of the Bulldogs.

**What do you love about your course?** With the business side of the course I enjoy learning relevant content you need to run or manage a business. And for the sport and recreation side of the course how hands-on it is. For example having to do two placements in the actual industry as well as doing activities that can actually help and influence people.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** I used the subjects at school to give myself a direction on what I wanted to study. What subjects I enjoyed and what subjects I didn't enjoy at school gave me that direction/pathway. I mixed that with my personal interests and it helped me pick the course that I'm really loving

**Course information:** Bachelor of Sport Management/Bachelor of Business, Victoria University, <http://bit.ly/29GMAoq>

# KYLE MCCMULLAN

## SPORT DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT

### LA TROBE UNIVERSITY



#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, General Mathematics, Visual Communication Design, Accounting, Religion and Society
- Year 12: English, Further Mathematics, Accounting, Visual Communication Design, VET Hospitality

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I chose these subjects as they were what I enjoyed and what I was good at. I did Religion and Society Units 3+4 in Year 11 as an Advancement subject as we were required to complete a religion subject and I felt it would act as a back-up if I didn't do well in my Year 12 subjects.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I used the Senior Course Guide and teachers to identify subjects that would best suit me. Looking at the Course Guide and the description and requirements of subjects is a good starting point as it will give you an overview of the subject.

**What is your course like?** I study a Bachelor of Business (Sport Development and Management) at La Trobe University Bendigo. My course workload is not too strenuous, and I have gotten to complete both business components as well as specific sport subjects. I am in my third year of the course and am currently completing placement with Basketball Victoria. This is beneficial as gives you a feel for the work you will be doing once you finish your course. The university also helps you make connections with people and organisations that you might have not previously been able to network with.

**What do you love about your course?** I love that I have gotten to experience a broad range of subjects and I have been able to tailor the course to suit my interests. I love that I have the opportunity to complete placement as it gives me valuable experience and connections that will be beneficial when I graduate and apply for jobs.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** I actually didn't go into any area that I studied at school. Accounting did help with some of my business subjects, and English has prepared me for many of my assignments that rely on good literacy skills. Hospitality has prepared me for moving away from home and cooking for myself, which can be a daunting task.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course?** I have about 10-13 contact hours (hours that I am in class) per week. This means I am actually not at university that often and I try to limit my classes to only 1-3 days per week. Although I do have plenty of work and assignments to complete outside of these contact hours. Often I will have class in the morning, then I will complete any work or start assignments in the afternoon. Often you have many group assignments so I use my spare time to also meet and discuss these assignments with my group members

**What have been some of the highlights of your course so far?** The teachers have been excellent and are very knowledgeable in their areas. They are always willing to assist you, and like school will aim to help you reach your goals. Another highlight is the friendships I have made since being at university. I moved onto campus and is where I have met some of my best mates.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals:** Do what you enjoy, are good at and passionate about. This will allow you not to burn out and stick out the whole university course.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying the course?** Look into the universities that offer the course and attend open days and information sessions about the subject. Also collect the course guides or access them online and look at the overview of the course and some of the subjects that you will complete.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Business (Sport Development/Management), La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/29QpKw1>

# ALANA VERES

## EVENT MANAGEMENT, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: Literature, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, Religion and Society, Physical Education, Biology
- Year 12: Mathematical Methods, Biology, Drama, Literature, Physical Education

**Why did you choose these subjects?** After going along to university open days with my older sister, I was convinced I wanted to become a physiotherapist. So in Years 10 and 11 I began to look at prerequisites for physiotherapy and the subjects I might need. After Year 10 I was really set up for physiotherapy, however after studying Chemistry in Year 11, I realised this might not be for me.

I had a difficult time with Chemistry because it was very difficult for me and I was very unhappy studying something I was not enjoying. After Year 11 I had no idea what I wanted to do at university. So I chose my subjects for Year 12 based on what I would enjoy in my final year of high school and also a few challenges such as Biology and Mathematical Methods. I wanted a big range of subjects to keep all my options open for university.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** For my Year 11 subject choices I spoke to the College Career Advisor and looked at the university prerequisites. I also spoke to teachers and my parents to help me make these choices. It's good to speak to people and seek advice because others will be able to see the broader picture.

For Year 12 subject choices, I looked at the hard work I had already put in Years 10 and 11. For example, I really wanted to continue Mathematical Methods after putting in all the hard work for Advanced Mathematics and Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2.

**What was your course like?** The Bachelor of Business (Event Management) was a really great course with a broad subject range. It can sometimes be difficult because you need to complete basic business subjects, however if you are prepared for this and prepared to work hard it's really enjoyable.

The Event specific subjects were really great and involved planning and implementing actual real-life events. There is also a huge opportunity to get involved in the industry while studying through volunteer work and Work Integrated Learning.

**What did you enjoy about your course?** One of the best things about the course was Work Integrated Learning (WIL), which is typically completed in third year. WIL involves working in an events workplace, either in a paid placement or as a volunteer. It is a great opportunity to meet industry contacts and learn on the job. WIL is compulsory before graduating from the course, as it is really important for carer development. Victoria University also offer a range of study exchange and overseas work opportunities such as Disney World in Florida USA.

I did not take part in this but my friends did and really enjoyed their time in the USA. In the Events Management course there is a subject called Live Performance Management in which students work in groups to plan and implement an event. This subject is a great chance to work on a real event from liaising with the venue and suppliers to planning entertainment such as a band and even organising a charity fundraiser.

### How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?

- **Mathematical Methods** prepared me for business statistics at university.
- **Literature** assisted me with assignment and report writing, learning how to expand on ideas in my academic writing.
- **Drama** at school and my one year Diploma in Music Theatre assisted me with my confidence with oral presentations at university.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I work for a company called Arinex. Arinex is a professional conference organiser, so we manage a whole range of conferences and professional meetings from the program and speaker management to the social events. In my role as a Project Co-ordinator, I liaise with the venue, furniture hire, program committee, chef and restaurants and other suppliers. I am also required to manage anything additional such as tours or entertainment hire.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** I love everything about my job. There is a really nice balance between office work and working onsite at a conference or event. The balance is great so I don't get bored of being in the office or onsite as I am constantly changing! It is great to build up relationships with certain suppliers such as hotels or venues and then socialise with these people at industry events. The events industry is huge on networking so we are always being invited to things.

For example we went to the Australian Open Tennis and the AFL with free tickets from suppliers. I am a naturally organised person and very attentive to detail so this role was perfect for me personally and professionally. I also love the social/networking aspect of the industry. If you're a social person who loves talking to others, you will love it to!

NB: Alana was the recipient of the prestigious 2014 Todd Blake Student Award, offered by Victoria University in partnership with the Victoria Tourism Industry Council.

**Course information?** Bachelor of Business (Events Management), Victoria University, <http://bit.ly/1ZPMf5Z>

# JENNA PHILLPOTT

## BACHELOR OF TOURISM & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

### WILLIAM ANGLISS INSTITUTE

#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, French, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Religion/CEPD, Teenagers and the Law, P.E. for Girls, Science, VET Hospitality Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English, French, Legal Studies, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, VET Hospitality Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Religion.
- Year 12: English, French, Legal Studies, Further Mathematics, Business Management.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** I based my decisions on the subjects that I enjoyed and found interesting. It was important for me to make sure that the subjects were intriguing and stimulating, so that I would enjoy the challenge and want to learn.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I read the description of subjects in the Senior School Subject Handbooks and asked students in the year levels above me about the subjects they were undertaking. From there, I made informed decisions about the subjects that sounded fun and would engage my interest and areas of passion.

**What was your course like?** It was a four-year course, which included one year of compulsory industry placement. It was a balance of subjects that provided hands-on learning of the practical elements required in the industry, but also a strong focus on many areas of theory and academic learning with a direct link to the current and past trends of the industry.

**What were some of the best parts of the course?** The year of industry placement was definitely one of the most valuable experiences and one of the best parts of my course. It provided me with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of work that I wanted to pursue in my career. I had the opportunity to learn so much in that one year, and having that practical experience and knowledge which I was then able to use in my final year of study to assist in my academic writing and build a greater understanding of the industry was key to my success.

Not only that, being a William Angliss student has the ability to build your network and provide you with endless opportunities to meet and interact with key industry figures. It was through the connections of William Angliss that I was able to gain employment in the Grossi Group, where I progressed my career over 3.5 years and was able to grow within the company and become a valued full-time employee at their flagship restaurant and Melbourne's iconic and longest running restaurant, Grossi Fiorentino. In my opinion, if I didn't go to William Angliss, I probably wouldn't be in the job that I am in right now

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I am working at Vue de Monde as a Junior Sommelier.

**What do you love about your job?** I love that every day is different and exciting! I am constantly learning and challenging myself to become better at what I do. I get to work with amazing people from all around the world who share a similar passion and love for my industry. Every day we get to use our skills and knowledge to provide something special to our guests. I love that what I do is able to bring people together and bring a smile to their face. Having the pleasure of knowing that what I do is the platform for where people create memories and share experiences is one of the most rewarding parts of my job.



**How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?** They didn't really. To be honest, there were no subjects that were prerequisites for my course. The level of learning and the academic writing required at university is completely different to that of high school. The expectations are on a completely different scale and therefore it is my opinion that for my course and area of industry, it is not the subjects you pick which really affect the way you will succeed in university or further studies.

It is picking the subjects you love and the areas of knowledge which you are inspired by that make all the difference. If anything, the thing I learnt from the subjects that I studied at high school, was that the subjects that I succeeded in most and achieved the highest marks in, were actually those which I was passionate about and had fun in.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management, William Angliss Institute, <http://bit.ly/28YlxSV>

# TAHNEE MCKIBBON

## CRIMINOLOGY, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY



### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – English, Mathematical Methods, Hospitality Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Business Management Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Legal Studies.
- Year 12 – English Language, Further Mathematics, Legal Studies, Accounting, Health and Human Development.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I spoke to the College Career Adviser and she was able to give suggestions as well as getting advice off friends and other students in my Learning Mentor. Looking at university courses that I was interested in also helped to give an indication of the subjects that were required.

**What is your course like?** The course is very interesting. It gives a general overview of all forms of crime such as cyber crime, terrorism and crimes that individuals and businesses commit. The course also has a lot of flexibility with the subjects you can study as it doesn't have a heap of core subjects that you are required to complete. So if you are interested, it could be worth considering doing a double degree in Criminology/ Psychology or Criminology/Forensic Science.

**What are some of the best parts of the course?** I love that the course focuses on all aspects of crime and that it's not limited on the areas it covers. I also love that within the subjects you are given the choice of what you will write your essay on. By allowing this, you are able to focus on areas that you are interested in!

**How have the subjects at school prepared you for your course?** Studying Legal Studies helped to give me an overview of crime and law. Criminology incorporates both of these areas and having studied Legal Studies it gave me an understanding of law and how people can be charged, so when aspects of this were being discussed, I understood what was being said.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Criminology, Deakin University, <http://bit.ly/1F5wpx8>

# BRIANNA COX

## LAW/ARTS, MONASH UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – Literature, Chemistry, Religion, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Music, Japanese
- Year 12 – English, History, Politics, Music, Japanese



**Why did you choose these subjects?** In Years 10 and 11 I chose the subjects that would open as many doors as possible, since I hadn't yet decided what course I wanted to do. Then in Year 12 I decided to choose the subjects I was best at and most interested in. Although I still hadn't decided what course I was going for, I was fairly sure I wasn't going down the Maths/Science road, so I dropped Chemistry.

When you're picking subjects try to look into what prerequisites are needed for any courses you might be interested in (the College Career Adviser is great for that) but also try and pick what you enjoy and what you're good at. Year 12 is only unpleasant if you've picked subjects you hate just because they get scaled up.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** After going to a few university open days I leafed through a few courses that looked interesting and checked the prerequisites. I also went to the Senior School Information Evening and spoke to teachers and past students about each subject to get an idea of what they involved and whether they would be interesting. I would definitely recommend choosing subjects that you like and are good at regardless of whether or not they get scaled up. In the end it really makes no difference.

**What is your course like?** So far I have found it to be extremely interesting which has surprised me as I was very uncertain when I applied for it. The law side of it is all about critical and philosophical thinking. For my first assignment, we had to sit in on a court hearing and write about what works and doesn't work about the court system. You're encouraged to think for yourself and not just memorize what someone teaches you. I would definitely recommend doing a double degree (Arts/Law or Commerce/Law etc.) instead of a law degree alone.

The arts subjects break up it up really nicely. I can pick whatever subjects I am interested in and that way I am doing two law subjects and two subjects of my own choosing per semester instead of four law subjects, which I would find quite draining. And a double degree only takes one more year than a single degree

**What do you love about your course?** I have enjoyed using my brain in a different way. I have more freedom in how I approach my assignments and the lecturer's value critical thinking and thoughtfulness above structure. In criminal law, we learned about a lot of really weird cases and the legal and philosophical reasoning that judges used to deal with the issues they raised. It's way more than just learning what the law is and applying it.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** They prepared us to meet deadlines and to work hard. I did History Revolutions in Year 12 and then chose a history subject as part of my arts degree and found it to be easier than what we did in high school. I think most people would agree that studying at university is a lot easier than Year 12. You have a lot more freedom, a lot more time and it's less competitive.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Bachelor of Arts, Monash University, <http://bit.ly/1Pe63ZI>

# CLAIRE DE KOYER

## LAW/COMMERCE (ACCOUNTING)

### DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – English, Legal Studies, Accounting, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement
- Year 12 – English, Literature, Legal Studies, Politics, Accounting



**Why did you choose these subjects?** In Year 11 I had my heart set on going into the medical field, ultimately to study Medicine. Whilst this was a dream job of mine as a 15/16 year old, it didn't play to my strengths and ultimately I accepted it probably wasn't the job for me. (I haven't yet regretted making that decision!!)

I loved Legal Studies from my first taste of it in Year 10 and decided humanities were my strength, so too English. Dealing with words rather than numbers seemed to work better for me. And so after a last minute change of heart I changed my subjects and haven't looked back. I decided I wanted to study law which would require a good grade and the best way to achieve that was by taking the subjects that I both enjoyed and I was good at, which happened to come with the best teachers, and ultimately it worked out for me

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** For me talking to people was the best way to navigate the minefield that is choosing subjects. People that have been there before are the best resource base you could ask for. They can speak from experience, will be able to tell you what a subject is like, and what you can expect from it. The College Career Adviser and senior teachers are also invaluable resources – talk to them, that's what they are there for. I would also say go with your strengths – you know what you are good at and what you are therefore most likely to enjoy.

**What was your course like?** My course, a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) was great, though I appreciate not for everyone. It was challenging and extremely time consuming, but it was in the challenge that I found enjoyment. Learning law at university only really scrapes the surface of the field and now that I am practising law I realise how much more I have to learn. My course equipped me with the skills to learn and being able to find the answers.

**What did you love about your course?** I was continually being challenged and stretched. It took me to China and across the continent of Europe. I met people from diverse backgrounds with diverse interests and different ways of viewing the world, the law, and the role of lawyers in society. Whilst I decided to go into private practice at a large international law firm, it opened up many other options and there were many and varied avenues available to me, and they are doors that have and will always remain open. Just because you study law or accounting doesn't mean you have to be a lawyer or an accountant.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** They gave me a taste of the areas of study I was headed for – particularly Legal Studies and Accounting. English taught me to think critically and carefully use words – skills that are essentially for being a lawyer. They also inspired me to work hard. I liked what I did and I liked the teachers who were there to help and guide us. I found that if you show a teacher you are eager to succeed, they will go above and beyond to make it happen, and this extends beyond school, to both university and into the corporate world. That said, university is very different to how school operates and you have to be prepared to self lead, work independently and be self motivated.

### What advice can you offer students considering studying this course?

- **Work experience** is essential in any area. The legal industry is extremely competitive and graduate jobs are highly sought after with a large number of applicants for few places. When I was going for graduate positions the experience I had obtained in a boutique law firm throughout my degree was highly regarded and well received by prospective employers. Get experience early, it will also help you decide whether it is really what you want to do
- **Work hard** – grades matter in the legal industry.
- **Take on extra curricular opportunities** – study tours, study abroad opportunities, volunteering positions, and community involvement. And do it from early on in your degree. These additional experiences will help you stand out in a sea of applicants.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I now work as a graduate lawyer in a global law firm in their Melbourne office. I have just finished my rotation through the Banking Team and am about to start in the Corporate (Health, Pharmaceuticals and Aged Care) Team.

**What do you love about your job?** Every day I do something different. The law is such a complex, extensive and dynamic profession and every day I learn something new. I work with extremely bright, driven people who are willing to help and share their knowledge. The firm I work for has many other opportunities for training, growth, professional development, extra curricular activities and ways to do something more than practice corporate law – such as pro bono work, sporting teams, social activities and community service work

**Course information:** Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, Deakin University, <http://bit.ly/1lgPpJg>

# ROSALEEN COX

## ENVIRONMENTS, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – Literature, General Mathematics, Legal Studies, Sociology, Religion, Drama Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12 – English, Further Mathematics, Legal Studies, Politics, Media.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** Despite the reputation I may hold as a confident, driven and really really ridiculously good-looking person, I had no clue what I wanted to do after Year 12. T'was the spring of 2014, and the idea of studying Environments was welcomed with open arms as I quickly dismissed my current plans to pursue a career in annihilating all the magpies near my house. So the subjects I chose for senior school were ultimately ones that correlated with my interests, and what I thought I would be good at.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I primarily used the Senior Course Guide, and compared the dismal scores I got in subjects like Mathematics: Pre-Methods with the somewhat less dismal scores I got in humanities subjects to shape my Year 12 plans.

**What is your course like?** My course is excellent. If you love both science and humanities it is definitely the course for you. If you're like me and hate science, it's ok, you can avoid a lot of it, but there will be one or two subjects in this degree where you'll have to suck it up.

**What do you love about your course?** I love learning about various perspectives of nature and sustainability. I enjoy the flexibility to learn so many areas of environments as well as the opportunity to learn about things completely different through Melbourne Uni's breadth track program. Many people think undertaking an environmental degree sets in motion a science-orientated education. However, this Bachelor degree gives you the chance to learn about the legal, political, philosophical and management side of it.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course?** Currently, a day in the life of my course would be going to classes that teach you about the problems and solutions to famines (in relation to population growth and water scarcity), environmental philosophy (which looks at the Indigenous approach to proper land care and sustainability), environmental law and science. I am at uni approximately 16 hrs a week, usually there are 2 lectures and 1 tutorial per subject.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** Year 12 was extremely helpful for some subjects, such as the political and legally orientated ones, and English for essays. But for others, you pick it up as you go along pretty quickly. I did nothing environmental in secondary school and I was still in the same boat as everyone else in my tutorials for each subject. I would recommend doing politics and law for this degree, and pay attention in your English classes because you're in for a tonne of essays.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying this course?** Most definitely go to as many open days as possible. Read as many course guides as you can. Plan out what you will do in your first semester at university by looking at what subjects you could do.

**What are your future career goals?** I would like to work for institutions like the Forest Stewardship Council or Parks Victoria. Ultimately in a sustainable management focused career

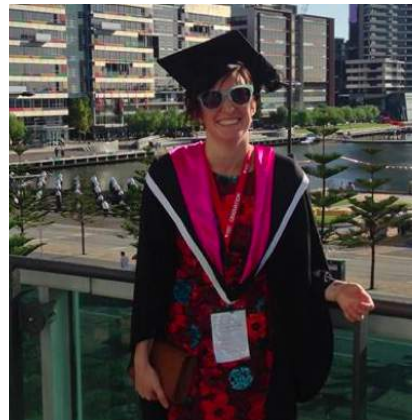
**Course information:** Please note that the Bachelor of Environments at the University of Melbourne is no longer accepting enrollments. The Bachelor of Environment and Society at RMIT is a good alternative option - <http://bit.ly/29Oc1pa>

# 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](mailto:ellie.f_88@hotmail.com)

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



# TATE SPITERI

## SPORTS JOURNALISM, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, General Mathematics, History, Sociology, Religion, Accounting Units 3+4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English, English Language, Further Mathematics, History, Sociology

**Why did you choose these subjects?** English had clearly been my best subject in Year 11 so I decided to take a bit of a risk and do English Language as well. Not doing it in Year 11 put me a fair way back but I knew it would be worth it for my ATAR and also to further help my writing skills for the future if I worked hard with it. History and Sociology are also very writing based as well as interesting so I went with them. Further Mathematics was the class I saw as a bit of a time to relax which I could afford since I went solidly in Accounting Units 3 + 4 in Year 11.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** Parents, older students and teachers.

**What is your course like?** My course suits me well as it is mainly assignments with a due date rather than on the spot exams and tests like Year 12 which can be stressful. Already in the first semester I've written numerous different articles in all different formats of writing. There is also the TV side of the course; in one of my classes our final assignment was to go "live to the air" for a full 1-hour TV broadcast as a class. At the moment being first year it's pretty broad to all types of media and journalism, in future years it will become more pigeon holed to sports journalism.

**What did you love about your course?** I love the flexibility of the course. I can essentially write about whatever I want. Not being limited to learning from textbooks is something I love about the course. In fact not one of my Journalism classes even has a textbook.

### How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course?

- **English:** taught me to write at length, and how to use information within an article.
- **English Language:** completely broadened my English skills in a distinct way that only this class could do. I think its essential to do for any one who wants to study journalism.
- **History:** made me a better reader and gave me the skill to be able to write extensively about something new to me.
- **Sociology:** taught me to write articles exclusively from information rather than opinion.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Media and Communication (Sports Journalism), La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/29vS5GQ>

# STEPHANIE ANDERSON

## JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11 – Literature, History, Sociology, Studio Arts, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Further Mathematics Units 3 + 4 Advancement.
- Year 12 – Literature, English, History, Sociology, Studio Arts.



**Why did you choose these subjects?** I always chose subjects that I enjoyed. I always thought that I'd get better marks for subjects that I had fun in and thought were interesting, rather than worrying about scaling and prerequisites.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I spoke to the College Career Adviser and read the Senior Course Guide.

**What was your course like?** I decided to study journalism because I love writing and all forms of literature. I wanted, and I still want to become a novelist, but I'm a realist and knew that I needed a job to pay the bills before I could be the next Jane Austin. Journalism was a natural choice. I loved everything about my course. I found it complimented my existing skills, and gave me new ones. I enjoyed the atmosphere at uni more than anything I think. It's strange to be in a place that's filled with like-minded adults, from all over Australia and the world, who are all working towards something equally as cool as you are.

**What was your honours year like?** When I received an offer to do honours I jumped at the opportunity as I thought it would give me a leg up in the job market. For my honours I took my university experience and decided to research it. I'd noticed at uni that most young people didn't understand or care about politics. I decided to find out why that was, and what the media could do to change it. As part of my honours I built and maintained a website, had a party, did a stack of research and wrote a 15,000 word thesis.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** I majored in Sociology at uni. My background in photography made life a lot easier, as well as my writing skills.

**What is your graduate position and what do you love about your job?** I work at a media monitoring firm as a Social Media Professional. I love being surrounded by the news. I love being ahead of the traditional news, as my space is social and online (the breaking news outlets). I love being on the cutting edge of the media market and being a part of the future of the media.

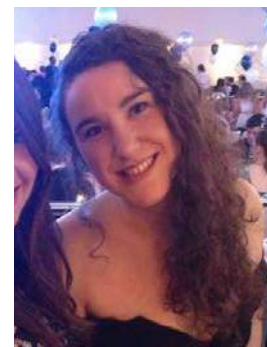
**Course information:** Bachelor of Journalism, University of Canberra, <http://bit.ly/1YjVQ4e>

# GEORGIA WHYTE

## PUBLIC RELATIONS, RMIT

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: Literature, English Language, Psychology, Management, Religion and Society, Drama Units 3+4 Early Advancement
- Year 12: Legal Studies, Literature, English Language, Psychology and Media.



**Why did you choose these subjects?** I was good at them and generally interested in what I'd learn from them.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I spoke to my teachers, family and the College Career Adviser but the most important resource will be your brain. Think about what you enjoy, what you're good at and what isn't going to annoy you. You have to study it for 24 months, then potentially another 3+ years if you go to university, so it's important that you're interested in a subject.

My biggest piece of advice is don't choose a subject just because a course requires it. If you don't like the subject but it's a prerequisite, chances are you'll also hate the course and won't want to pursue a career in that field. So consider subjects you're interested in as this will also help you plan what you want to do post-school.

**What was your course like?** My course was incredibly hands on and industry focused. I studied the Bachelor of Communications (Public Relations) at RMIT and we had to do internships at real businesses, pitch campaigns to real clients and manage real issues. We were constantly working in groups and pitching to panels of people. We also wrote a lot of strategies and scripts and made lots of educational and promotional films. My major was in Literature and Philosophy so that involved a lot of talking and writing.

**What did you love about your course?** I loved that we were 18 year olds telling companies what to do. Our teachers trusted us enough to make decisions for major companies and we'd often present ideas to people who had been in the industry for years. I love people, and I constantly had to manage them, write to them and work with them, so that was amazing.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** Every one of my subjects helped me.

- **Literature and English language** prepared me for all the reading and writing I'd have to do.
- **Media** helped me make good films and know how to dissect a text.
- **Psychology** helped me understand the way people work and how to and influence them to do things.
- **Drama** made me confident when pitching and doing public speaking and
- **Legal Studies** prepared me for the legal subjects we did in my course.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying the course?** Make sure you're a good writer but also consider whether you like people and knowing how they work. If you like writing but struggle to relate to others, don't study public relations. It's also not just creating events or promoting something, it's a psychology and requires a lot of self confidence and respect. Hate those English orals, group assignments or explaining things to people? Then I wouldn't apply for public relations.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I work as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for a creative hub in Yarraville. We have theatres, dance studios, yoga rooms, rehearsal studios, recording studios, creative offices, film and television studios, photography studios, function rooms and a café and bar. I tell everyone that they exist, manage a team of designers, write all the newsletters, get creatives to partner with us, manage all the social media, train staff how to interact with customers, take bookings, plan workshops for the staff and write all the external and internal content you read.

**What do you love about your job?** Every day is different and my manager also trusts me with what I'm doing. I am constantly talking to people and figuring out how to make the space better and get more people involved. I get to type at a computer but also show people around our venue and have meetings with people who want to do cool things at our studios.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your job?** I arrive at work and the guy in the café updates me on all the people who have come in before I arrived. I then check my emails that consist of dancers, artists, actors, musicians and other people asking whether they can use one of our studios. Another will be about whether our posters are ready for print, if I want my company to be a part of a festival or if I could please send through all the promotional content required for a performance.

Next I check our social media platforms and reply to any comments and schedule the next week's posts. Someone will then walk in and enquire about running a film shoot, so I'll take them on a tour of the space and organise their booking. Then I'll have a meeting with a lady who wants to write a story about our company and I'll speak to her about it is what we do.

A staff member will then walk past and ask how to turn the projector on and I'll show them so we can play the video I've compiled. I head back to my computer and write a strategy around how we'll get more people to rent our offices or how our staff should answer phone calls and book clients. Then we'll have a beer or food tasting and I'll decide whether that company's brand suits our bar.

The design team then spots me and asks whether I like the new fliers they've made. They show me the new website they're creating and I tell them what does or doesn't work. We then discuss what the new posters should look like and book a street artist to come and paint the front of our building.

I head back to my office and upload new content to the website, book bands in for our weekly performances and write a media release about an event we have coming up. Then I go home, feeling happy with the work I do.

**Why should students consider studying Public Relations?** You have the power to influence people and make people aware of an issue or field you're passionate about. Not many people will realise, but you'll be the person determining what people think about a company, person, place, or even an issue. You get to be creative and you'll always work on innovative projects and ideas. If you like influencing your friends to do things and thinking strategically, I'd study PR.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Communication (Public Relations), RMIT, <http://bit.ly/29HGX8K>

# ANDREW CARDEN

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRY/THEOLOGY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, History, Music, Further Mathematics  
+ 4 Advancement, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Advancement,
- Year 12: English, History, Biology, Music (Group Performance), Mathematical Methods.



**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** Teachers, parents, Senior Course Guide, university course outlines and university prerequisites.

**What was your course like?** Christian ministry and theology was very convenient to study: I was able to slot it in amongst uni and part time employment - it was essentially just an extension of the ministry work I was already doing with an additional 10 hours per week of program development, study, assignments or meetings.

**What did you enjoy about your course?** My course was industry based, so aside from learning the theology and logical discussion, review and arguments/relationship building with God, I was also able to learn what working in the church environment was like, as well as make many contacts. Most of all, being part of a Christ focused community at work meant I was able to engage with God very easily in the work place, and often felt like I wasn't doing any formal study or employment at all.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** A huge aspect of any ministry work is communication. Written or verbal, you can't escape it. If you want to do any sort of ministry you need develop solid writing skills and the ability to present an idea in a format others can get. It may be to a group of 4 people. It may be to 4000. The bottom line is you need to be able to write programs, interpret the bible amongst current socio-political context and have the ability to listen to people and really allow God to use you to connect to their needs. Religion and Society gives a good intro to theological concepts and church history, which will make life easier later on (especially the reformation). If you are 100% committed to pursuing a career in ministry I'd recommend studying things like Media, Business Management, English and some humanities.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I worked as an itinerant preacher for small churches and camps. I also hosted and frequently guest hosted on a local Christian radio program. I wrote curriculum for youth and children's camps and ministries and designed programs alongside my wife working with high school students. I also frequently am involved in informal counselling as we seek to plug people into more appropriate healthcare and resources.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** That I get paid to do what I'm passionate about: loving God and loving people. Also, working in such a God focused environment. Whether it's in the formal paid capacity, or sponsored volunteer work, there's always someone who needs help, and always another job that needs doing. The world is always changing and there are always new and exciting challenges to be faced. Few things are better than facing the problem of having a ministry quadruple in size within 12 months forcing you to re-think your approach from the sheer necessity of increased numbers.

# SEBASTIAN MEREDITH

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRY/THEOLOGY

### Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English Language, Physics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Music (Solo Performance), General Mathematics, Youth Ministry.
- Year 12: English Language, Psychology, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Music Style and Performance, Further Mathematics.

**Why did you choose these subjects?** My previous schooling grounded me well in the foundations of the grammatical structure of English, so it seemed suitable to study English Language during both Year 11 and 12. I studied Outdoor and Environmental Studies and Music Performance purely as I am interested in both of those fields with great levels of personal enjoyment; I believe it is very important to take the time to input into the things you enjoy as well as the things you are required to do. This makes the whole study process profoundly more enjoyable, particularly if you are one that struggles to enjoy studying.

The final subjects - Mathematics, Physics and Psychology were all subjects that would keep me engaged in learning the things that I thought would be of value to know outside of school. I did not choose them because they were a prerequisite to a course, nor because they were subjects I would necessarily enjoy thoroughly; they were simply an intellectual stimulus that I believed (and still believe) to be helpful in my day-to-day journey outside of school.

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** For my high school subjects, I had my family as a resource - all my mother wanted was for me to graduate with mathematics as one of my subjects. I also had conversations with previous students that had undertaken the subjects in previous years. I also spoke to teachers about the difference between music performance and music composition, which helped me to decide which direction to take.

**What is your course like?** Fantastic! The study of Theology is so broad. My course offers a contextual overview of the books of the Bible (e.g. Corinthians – who was the original audience? What was the governmental structure of the audience? What were the issues addressed by the author?), it offers the studies of the original languages used in the early manuscripts (Hebrew and Koine Greek), it offers philosophical classes (Apologetics and Philosophy) that ensure you are thinking on logical grounds, and studies in different faiths (for example, I have done classes on Islam, which entailed me visiting Mosques and engaging with Muslims throughout Melbourne).

**What do you enjoy about your course?** I love the variety to my course. I love learning the history of the church and of the Greco-Roman era; from Alexander the Great and his 'Hellenisation' (the spreading of Greek culture) of the common world to Martin Luther and his motives and impacts on the Reformation. I have completed studies in the ancient (Koine) Greek language, which allows for reading and translating of original Greek manuscripts dated to as early as 400 A.D.; this also gives me a great understanding in the roots of today's English language.

Finally, I think the thing that I love the most about my course is the fact that I know I will take all that I learn from it outside of university after I graduate. Not only will I graduate with the credentials that allow me to apply for jobs in churches, chaplaincies, mission organisations etc., but I will also come out of it with an abundance of knowledge that I will desire to continue to expand on; the course has me reading textbooks that I believe I will be reading for the rest of my life for the sake of pure interest, growth, and enjoyment.

**Give students an example of a 'day in the life' of your course?** Most of my study time consists of attending classes and sitting in a quiet library either researching books that expand on things learned in class, or writing essays. However, if you are one to study on campus rather than by distance, you will obviously have the benefits of friends. In between the times where I am quietly studying, I am playing basketball or Frisbee with mates, or eating out at cafes and restaurants – trying to get as much physical stimulus as I can so that I don't overload on the intellectual stimulus.

**What have been some of the highlights of your course so far?**

- My course offers a lot of practical learning. For example, I spent one day at the National Gallery of Victoria browsing through the general collection of the different pieces of art that reflected the history of church progression, and also just the history of human progression in general.
- I also participated in a week long Islamic ministry, where I went to the Islamic Museum of Victoria, visited some mosques and gained insight from some local Muslims, helped teach English to Muslim refugees, and took part in devouring some of the most delicious feasts known to man.
- I am also on the student leadership team of my university – and my role with that is to choose a less privileged ministry for my university to support for the year, and promote ways in which they can be supported. And I would say my greatest highlight is to be able to witness the difference that the contribution of my fellow students makes to the underprivileged children of that particular ministry.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** English! Essays! I could not even begin to fathom the intensity of writing 4000+ word essays without a strong foundation in grammatical structure and an extensive lexicon.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received about following your career goals?** You have got time; not being certain on your career path is far from a big deal in the grand scheme of life.

**What advice can you offer students considering studying the course?** Attend an open day and sit in on a class; you will receive a great insight on the content that is studied, and what the student life looks like. Talk to someone you know that has studied the course and assess the pros and the cons for yourself.

**Course information:** Bachelor of Theology, Melbourne School of Theology, <http://www.mst.edu.au/>