

MADELAINE MOORE

APPLIED SCIENCE/ORTHOPTICS

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Outdoor Education, P.E. for Girls, Science, Photography, Drama, Religion/CEPD, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English, Mathematical Methods, Physical Education, Chemistry, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Physics, Physical Education.

Why did you choose these subjects? I had no idea what I wanted to do when I graduated. I guess I found myself leaning towards doing something in science. I did enjoy it the most...so I picked my subjects based on interest. Mathematical Methods was always a safe option because it largely increases your options.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? My Mum, the College Career Adviser and the Senior Course Guide. I remember my mum and I desperately trying to figure out some direction of what I wanted to do then she went through the handbook for me trying to find the subjects that popped up the most for the fields that I liked. I had two older siblings so I was lucky she knew what she was doing by the time it got to me!

What is your course like? The first two years of my course were primarily based on learning general anatomy of the body (large focus on the brain and heart while still specialising on the eye), a broad introduction into pathology and pharmacology and the principles of the occupation including working with other health care specialists.

The benefit of this broad approach allows you to change courses into another health science field if orthoptics does not appeal to you after that time. The third year is very demanding and narrows down the content to only the eye. Every week you are learning a new practical skill that you will be using every day when you graduate, including using machines worth over \$100,000! The fourth year is all work placement.

What do you love about your course? Our class is tiny! About 30-40 students which means every teacher knows your name so it's more personal to what I imagine larger courses to be. The third year, while being the toughest, has been the best. It is very hands on and using all the different equipment and tools is really fun! It's also an unheard of occupation; people always show interest when you say what you're studying!

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course? The subjects that have aided me the most for my course are Biology, Physics and Mathematical Methods. I think if you are interested in taking a health science pathway you should definitely choose Biology.

Course information: Bachelor of Applied Science/Master of Orthoptics, La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/1PeR4Na>