**Video transcript: Work Ready Science**

Brie: Hi I’m Brie and I’m an Arts student at La Trobe University

Ben: And I’m Ben a biology student at La Trobe

Brie: Arts and Science have a lot more in common than you might think

Ben: Like they both offer the Work Ready Program that is the opportunity for you to begin building your career from the moment you start studying.

Anthony: The benefit of doing one of the Work Ready degrees is that you start to build a useful skill set that will transition you to employment from the first week of your degree.

Anna: That is the most difficult thing in an interview, how do I convince this employer that I’m the right person for the job, so what do I have, what have I learnt, what am bringing along that is what I want our students to go away with

Brie: The Work Ready program is an option embedded in your degree so while you study your major you can also develop your work ready skills

Ben: Some of these skills are developed throughout your coursework but that’s not the only way, there are plenty of opportunities for you to earn work ready points

Brie: And that’s what we are here to explain

Brie: During your degree you’ll need to complete 180 Work Ready points which you collect as you develop your work ready skills

Ben: There are four main ways you can do this through Uni Subjects, Work Placements, Career Programs and Extra-Curricular Activities

Anthony: The way the Work Ready degrees are structured is there are core discipline subjects areas which you take as normal and then there are Work Ready electives. In your core discipline subjects you’re developing content but the process of learning is also giving you a set of readily transferable skills we refer to them as graduate capabilities, they’re tracked through the degree and they provide a way of transitioning you to employment. You need to be able to write well, to speak well, to work in teams, you need to be able to frame a problem, you need to bring research to there, you need a strong analytical capability

Anna: This has often been the problem, that students understand the academic material that they have learnt and they know let’s say they have taken away some biology or whatever information they’ve learnt in first year but they don’t realise that they’ve also picked up a whole lot of skills and so when they go along and to talk to an employer they that don’t realise that perhaps they have communication skills or writing skills or presentation skills

Anthony: In addition to that we’ve got Work Ready electives which focus specifically on career and work related skill sets

Anna: The elective subjects are really to assist a student to plan for their career and have a look at the different opportunities that they may have and then once they know that and have that focus towards the workforce how then do they put these different steps into play to get to that end result.

Anthony: One of the things we’ve built-in to the Work Ready degrees is exchange. We’ll give you credit towards your work ready status by going overseas on exchange

Ravneet: I learnt a lot, how to adapt in different environments, in diverse cultures, you learn to be independent, mature and take responsibility of what you doing there. You see how it all works instead of reading about Indian textbooks I got to see how it really was and how the companies there operate.

Jason: At La Trobe University we offer a number of options for students in doing work placements some of those are supported directly through your subjects and through the Career Development Centre we also support students independently in obtaining work experience programs.

Shainie: Gives the student experience and exposure to the real world, actually doing it gives you a whole new perspective, it also makes you think a lot more

Sally: Anybody who does an internship is basically getting started ahead of time when they walk into the workplace they know what to do.

Nick: It’s not hand holding exercise, it’s not coffee making exercise you’re actually working and making a contribution

Sally: It’s about giving yourself confidence to work through technical problems of a certain size, learning to use the resources around you and learning that attitude is probably as important as learning the method

Nick: They might have done very well here and might be getting distinctions and high distinctions but the environment is the test can they apply within that environment with those deadlines and with those structures

Carly: The Career Development Centre offers a range of different programs and services for students. Within part of the Career Development Centre we have Student Enrichment as well where they offer opportunities for students to get involved in year -long programs such as the Career Mentoring program, the Infinity Leadership program and the La Trobe Award

Thomas: Through the La Trobe Award you get recognised for all the volunteering work you do on campus and for the campus community. The recognition you get for being willing to put in volunteer work employers love that.

Carly: It’s really building an awareness of yourself and building your employability skills so that you know how to market yourself to potential employers

Tyler: One of the best things you can do at university is to get involved with extra curricular activities whether that’s getting involved with a club or society that you are interested in or getting involved with the student union and putting on events or volunteering on Open Day

Stamatia: I have learnt management skills, I’ve learnt organisation, I’ve learnt how to network and communicate at professional academic events you can meet again the academics but also people from all around the workforce and they can give you ideas and talk to you and liaise with you they end up being your mentors or your door portal into something else your future.

Anthony: What we’ve done with the e-portfolio is we have bought everything together throughout the degree all of your graduate capabilities all of the assessment you have done all of those elements of the degree and we ask you to build them into a portfolio and then into an online CV that you can publish

Donna: By being able to record all of their achievements over a number of years they can measure their progress throughout those years there are also a number of activities that they can do within PebblePad that help them reflect on what those achievements are and help them I guess couch it in terms that employers would understand . The e-portfoilo is essentially like an online personal archive system where students can keep evidence of their studies their achievements and their reflections on those achievements. You can also use it to build your own website in the same way you can just to choose the parts you want to add to that website to showcase your work. I think it will give you that competitive edge.

Brie: There are plenty of reasons to participate in the La Trobe Work Ready program

Ben: For example it strengthens the relevance of your studies

Brie: It helps you transition between university and work

Ben: And employers really value what this program has to offer

Brie: So for more information head to your faculty office or to the La Trobe website