At high school it’s really general and broad, whereas when you come to uni it’s a bit more specific. So you get to choose, like, focus on your areas that you’re really interested in.

I knew that to get a degree at uni I would be putting all my skills to good use like writing and all the things that I’ve learnt during high school.

The career I want to pursue requires a university qualification. I want to become a lawyer so I need to get a law degree.

The question of why someone should go to university is a really fascinating question indeed. I think that there are many reasons. In my experience certainly I recall it gave me access to a world of ideas, of incredibility smart people, of enriching cultural and social experiences and a lot of fun as well. One thing that has come apparent to me is that in going to university I really set myself up for life, and for a better life. In some ways at its most basic it was the best investment, the smartest investment I could ever make.

The research data from Graduate Careers Australia shows that Australian graduates have a much lower chance of unemployment than non-graduates in our economy. A degree will greatly enhance your promotion possibilities and your earning capacity for the rest of your life. Further advantages include far more interesting jobs in the work force. Generally it’s even the case that graduates are shown to have even a better lifestyle and health outcomes as well. Graduates are also far more likely to be involved in the community and in public life.

It’s really important to understand that government targets in higher education are encouraging vast numbers of students to consider a degree.

Countries such as Australia and others as well are realising very rapidly that a smart, well educated population is absolutely what is required as we move into the 21st century. It’s clear that we faced with enormous challenges. Challenges of safety, climate change, health and wellbeing, ensuring that we grow and develop an enriched culture, one that appreciates diversity and difference, that is truly global.

La Trobe University has a distinctive set of values that underpin what we do and the approaches we take to education. Those values- and there’s a long history of them at this university- include a commitment of social justice and a commitment to really engage successfully with the world, with industry and with employers. That commitment is reflected in different ways, but one way is through our curriculum in which we have embedded that La Trobe essentials. What are the essentials? They’re key areas of thought relating to sustainability, global citizenship, and innovation and entrepreneurship, that together really make for a distinctive edge that comes along with a La Trobe education.

Challenging students to think creatively, carefully and in an agile way really will equip them to live a fulfilling and successful life in the 21st century.