**Voiceover**

Why is La Trobe passionate about scholarships for students experiencing hardship? Because of students like Mohammad. As an Afghani Hazara Mohammed lived most of his life as a refugee in Pakistan. In 2010 he came to Australia without his parents - he was only 15. This is his story….

My name is Mohammad umm I am 19 years old I study Bachelor of Business in La Trobe Uni umm err I’m Afghani, background Afghani, I came here in Australia nearly 4 years ago, this August it will be 4 years. I used to live with my uncles family my parents and they are not in Australia they live in Pakistan. So I left my uncle last year because of the, because there wasn’t enough space in the house, were there were already 10 people. I didn’t know that I’m a non-humanitarian, I had a non-humanitarian visa , so I just clicked for the HECS and I just said humanitarian visa and then I thought, I thought the government is giving my fees so I was, I was relaxed but later on I found that out I’m a non-humanitarian, and I don’t have my uncles support or anyone and I didn’t have even any money to pay my fees. So I was, I was really in a stress so I asked my friends, I had $1,200 from my from my savings myself and I asked my friends for $1,500 from one friend and $1,500 from the other friend so $3,000 I got from there, as , I just borrowed from them and I paid my fees but when I heard that there is a scholarship and I found this scholarship I… before the scholarship I was stressed like how can I repay them this money but now when I got the $1,500 first instalment yeah I just paid out straight one of my friend and I told my other friend I would pay you as soon as possible. Yeah the stress which I had to give the money back is gone now. My uncle he came Australia around 12 years ago and he was a boat people. He was one of the boat people and he sponsored us we are 5 brothers and sisters and sponsored his own family as well. The boat people they have got a humanitarian visa, they get all the support of HECS and everything but we are not we are a non-humanitarian so we don’t get those supports from the government so we have to pay our fees until we get our citizenship. Before the scholarship when I borrowed money, money from my friends I told my mum and my mum was like, she was, she was full on crying because she couldn’t help me at like any stage so yeah when I told her that I’ve got the scholarship she was really happy yeah. I would thank them a lot, I would thank them because I had a lot of stress because of this and the stress got yeah. Different people have different difficulties in their lives some have some, some have er family issues some have got travelling issues some have got like visa issues like me that can, the scholarships can help them in different ways. Because I’m getting my citizenship well in this august as well so I won’t be paying any more fees so I’ll be studying on the support of HECS and then I’ll be doing another two years in uni, hopefully in La Trobe, I am really happy in this uni and er I feel like I, I’ll have a good future. Once I get my citizenship I will try to bring my parents in Australia so year I hope I will live with my parents.