My name is Jordan. I’m currently studying a Bachelor of International Development at La Trobe University. A typical week for me would involve about 12 hours’ worth of class time, so tutorial and lectures. But as well as that I’d be doing quite a lot of independent study.

My Monday begins with a 2 hour history lecture and then I have a 1 hour politics lecture. The lecturer will give a big presentation and every now and then might ask questions of the audience, but it’s very much a one way presentation. After Uni I’ll tutor VCE students in maths and physics for about 2 hours. When I get home from tutoring because I live on campus I’ll actually do a lot of cooking with a group, so we’ll generally either share cooking responsibilities on one night or one person will cook for the group and we get some pretty tasty meals after that. After dinner I’ll do some readings. So readings are a major component of academic life, you need to be able to read academically and critically as well in order to understand the subject you’re doing it for.

So Tuesday is my French day. In the morning I’ll sit down and have breakfast but go over my French notes, that’s a major part of learning a language you’ve got to constantly practice your vocabulary. After breakfast I’ll have a 2 hour lecture for French and straight after that I’ll go into a 1 hour tutorial for French again. In the afternoon I’ll do some work for the university as a Student Ambassador. I do this by sharing my experience as a university student with high school students. In the evening I go to the gym and have dinner and after dinner I’ll do some independent study.

On a Wednesday morning I’ll go to my 1 hour French tutorial so my second one for the week and straight after that I’ll go to my politics tutorial, so that’s another hour. Then I have a lunch break and go straight into my 2 hour lecture. After Uni I’ll go to the gym and after the gym I’ll hang out with some friends who live on campus as well and we’ll just have some take away and just watch a movie or something like that.

I don’t have many classes on a Thursday so in the morning I’ll do a bit more independent study and that afternoon I’ll have a 1 hour anthropology tutorial, as well as a 1 hour history tutorial. After Uni I’ll tutor my VCE students for about an hour or two. After that I’ll go out with some friends because Thursday night is a pretty big social night for university.

On Fridays I don’t have any classes at all so I’ll do a bit of exercise in the morning and then spend pretty much the whole day in the library studying. In the last afternoon I’ll do some volunteer work with young asylum seekers. In the evening I’ll either go back home to visit my family who live in Gippsland, or I’ll stay back here and go to a university event like a trivia night or something like that.

Weekends can vary quite a lot, so I might do some part-time ambassador work or I could be doing chores or you know housework and doing some shopping or I might be at home with my family in Gippsland. So Sundays I’ll generally try to doing quite a bit of study. If I’m back at home it’s a bit different but most of the time I’m here I can get a solid 6 or 7 hours of study done.

I like university life because there are a lot of experiences you can have. You can join clubs, you can meet people and you’re also passionate about what you learn. You’re also independent and in control of your day-to-day life.