**Hallmark: a program for the curious**

Ally: The hallmark program is setup for students who are passionate about learning. Generally high achieving although we don’t consider ourselves to be so.

Tynan: It’s a cross disciplinary program, so there’re staff and students from all over the university who collaborate to try and tackle some of the big world issues.

Ally: La Trobe University is a university focused on research. Through the Hallmark Program we get to see that side of it. We meet researchers who are currently doing world-class research within their fields. We get to network with researchers who are current and up to date.

Eva: I thought research was just about science, but I found there’s a lot about social science and a lot that goes with my degree actually. The ideas that I’ve learned so far in the Hallmark Program I’ve already put to use in my degree.

Tynan: The exclusivity of the program means that the people around you are just as focused and driven and like-minded as yourself.

Malsha: Being in the Hallmark Program you collaborate and do a lot of group work with other students. They’ll provide their ideas and they’ll give different perspectives, and they’ll have ideas you never thought of.

Tynan: The program assigns staff members, faculty members and specialised help to each of the students, so they have the best opportunity to really get involved in university, and excel in each of their studies.

Eva: From the Hallmark Program I’ve made friends with people I normally would not have known because they’re from a different campus.

Ally: The Hallmark Program has certainly opened doors for me, it’s given me a lot of opportunities I couldn’t have even imagined last year.

Malsha: I was lucky enough to go to Canberra and I was able to participate in the national student leadership forum, and this was something I wouldn’t have been able to do if not for the Hallmark Program.

Professor Jane Long: Our Hallmark cohort not only has the opportunity to study in very small groups, across the whole of their program in dedicated subjects, they also have really exciting opportunities to go, for example, to study in a small group overseas. So they get an overseas experience, which really underpins their understanding of one of our La Trobe Essentials, that of Global Citizenship.

Eva: I would definitely encourage regional students to have a go at the Hallmark Program. It’s a really great opportunity to learn and collaborate with other students from different campuses.

Malsha: Being able to experience and being able to collaborate and form networks with different people in the university will definitely give you an advantage if you are going to pursue a career in research.

Tynan: The Hallmark Program is definitely a feather in the cap of any student.