VO INTRO: Boundaries. They are all around us, all the time. Social, economic, physical and cultural. For young people, breaking through limitations now is how they will determine who they are, for the rest of their lives.

VO: So how can an institution or university help to bridge cultural boundaries?

VO: At La Trobe University we provide hope to students from across the world. And we provide hope to the world with our global ready graduates. We know the importance of having students who are ready to change the world through global health, planning, sustainability and development.

Trevor: We’re here in South East Sri Lanka and we are in a place called Hambantota which is a small city of 25 00 people but it’s measured to be a million people based on the development of an international sea port and international airport. We’re on our way to see the seas port which is being funded by the Chinese government and eventually it’s designed to be one of the largest ports in South Asia.

Amy: Um something I’ve always been interested in is working in developing countries and we already got a bit of a taste of that, a group of students went to Sri Lanka.

Andrew: So that was five to six weeks of study and touring for students. It was actually a project collaborating with Sri Lankan students and actually doing study, learning about the Sri Lankan planning system by doing it.

Hemantha: There are also some issues that no town planner would have ever faced, particularly; this is an area with a very rich elephant habitat. So how do you plan with elephants?

Chris: After six or seven o’clock here, they have to leave the area because the elephants come out! There’s actually been some conflicts between the elephants and the people here, fighting over space by the sounds of it.

Amy: You know, just the idea that you can make an impact and do something through the course you’re doing is pretty rare and pretty great feeling I reckon.

Tracy: I think you become more well rounded, it’s not theoretical, it’s living it, it’s experiencing it, it’s realising how good we have it back home.

Steve: So we’ve got a bus load of students here today, from the University of Moratuwa and La Trobe University, and they’re walking together around the town talking to residents and business people. We’ve got a survey that they’re asking questions from, asking what about what they like and don’t like about their town.

Tony: I’ve been out with them doing some of those surveys; people invite you into their home, and they are very interested and engaged in what we’re trying to do. There’s no reticence or cynicism about the students, they’ve all been very well supported by the people they have spoken to.

Steve: the surveys fairly simple but it will tell us what people think in these towns and what their priorities are. It will be interesting to see how those match up with the provincial government’s priorities and what’s in their budget. And hopefully we’ll have a little bit of information to provide to some decision makers here about what people in the towns are saying.

Hemantha: This is going to be a landmark project off our input, that you can see on the ground, if you can come back again in two years time, you will see what is done, is implemented.

VO: We sent over 600 students out on mobility programs last year, and each of those students was funded with a mobility grant.

VO/TEXT: So how is La Trobe helping to bridge cultural boundaries?

VO/TEXT: We’re making the world our campus.