**Video transcript: Medicinal Chemistry Lori Ferrins**

My name is Lori. I’m currently in my first year of my PhD in medicinal chemistry.

I’ve always really enjoyed chemistry and I decided to study the medicinal chemistry degree because it not only incorporated my love of chemistry but it also meant that I could actually try and help people. I’m very much interested in the drug design side of chemistry.

I chose La Trobe because it provided me with the flexibly in the units that I wanted to choose, as well as enhancing my abilities and my skills for use in my future career.

I’ve actually completed two industry cadetships, so the first one was at the end of my first year and I worked in the chemistry department of Silicon Microtech which is a local company. For me it really affirmed that I really wanted to work in a chemistry lab. It was a great experience, it gave me so much more confidence going into my second year, not only in the lab but in the coursework as well. And I actually completed a second cadetship at Advanced Molecular Technologies at the end of my Honours year before I started my PhD, and again the skills that I have learnt from both of those cadetships have made me a much better chemist.

For me the best experiences that I have had so far have been at the open days at La Trobe, I help out on the chemistry stand and we get to have a lot of fun during the day, so we get to freeze icy poles with liquid nitrogen and we get to create little miniature explosions, and it’s just a generally fun day had by all.

I think for future students coming into particularly the medicinal chemistry degree you need to be aware that it’s all about the amount of effort that you put in, it is definitely going to be reflected in the mark you get at the end. It’s very much an intensive course but it’s really good fun and you do it with a really tight knit group of people to help you through.