Clare West.

My name’s Clare West, I’m currently doing the Master of Tourism and I’m working in the industry as a hotel duty manager. I took six months off after my undergraduate degree and found that it would give me a better opportunity and a better understanding of the industry so I took the opportunity to pursue and go on for another year.

Well it’s already opened a lot of opportunities in regards to questioning other positions in the field and what we can achieve. So with that I’m looking into brand marketing and management, rather than just the front held of the service industry.

I have a very strict sort of schedule, so I have a regular shift each week at work so I can work around that in terms of how I can fit homework in, in regards to that and still maintain a social life to keep a balance between it all.

My advice for people undertaking postgraduate study would be to make sure the study is their focus for that year. It’s a full time position and work and extracurricular activities might need to take a back step in that period to get the full benefits from it.

The best thing about La Trobe for me has been the teachers. They’re still hands on in the industry itself as well as doing research, and they provide a more hands on approach than just teaching you on a lecture base. And I think an experience in that in my undergraduate degree made me pursue it here as a post grad as well.