**International Welcome Festival video script**

Jacqui: Orientation is really important for international students. We find that international students who attend orientation have a much better transition into their academic studies.

VO: The Need to know session is the most important element of the International Welcome Festival. It gives international students the information they need on services, visa conditions, enrolment, health insurance, campus services and where they can get help when they need it.

Myriam: My orientation experience started when I just came to Australia and I came to the Western Lecture Theatre, feeling a bit lost and not knowing where to go. My first impact was with the guys working there at La Trobe International helping us find our way around and it was really good because they just saw that I was lost and asked me ‘Do you need any help, can we show you where you have to go?’ and it made me feel much more comfortable.

VO: The opportunity to make lasting friendships is another reason the International Welcome Festival is so important. Friends and classmates can offer priceless support throughout a student’s time at University.

Myriam: The highlights of my orientation were probably all the events where I could meet many people. So I made a lot of friends over the first two weeks.

VO: The Welcome Festival ensures students are familiar with what is available and introduces them to important staff members, making sure they are prepared for the start of semester.

Jacqui: We have a thriving International Host program, which gives students who have attended orientation previously to help new arriving students and it’s a really great program. We also have links with the community where students can participate in volunteering opportunities, summer camps and things like that.

VO: La Trobe University’s Melbourne Campus spans 267 hectares or 660 acres; it is one of Australia’s biggest university campuses, and offers a large range of services and facilities.

Myriam: Orientation helped me when I first arrived to kind of settle in, to know people, like you arrive and you don’t know anybody at all, classes haven’t started so you don’t have anyone to talk to. So it was really good in the orientation I met so many people.

Vijay: Well when I first landed in Australia I was out of my comfort zone. I thought that food might be a major concern, but I was actually surprised with Melbourne, you know like it was actually a feast everyday over here.

Jacqui: We get to see students arrive in Australia for the very first time and they are quite shy and they don’t have any friends. And then to see over the period of Orientation, through both the information sessions that we run but also through the social activities that we run, them start to build confidence, make friends and they are really prepared by the start of the academic year to get stuck into their study. If you did happen to miss anything during orientation, you can always get in contact with La Trobe International and find out about some of the programs and other sessions that are available to students.