**Video transcript: Student experiences**

**Shainie Jesurasan (Sri Lanka) Double Masters in Biotechnology and Business Administration:**

When I considered going abroad to do my undergraduate studies, I had a couple of friends and a few relatives who were already in Australia and they all recommended La Trobe

**Ingo Brand (Germany) PhD in Biochemistry:**

My time at La Trobe was fantastic. I loved Australia, I loved the country, I loved the wild life and the nature.

**Dr Peter Cartwright – Associate Dean (International and Development):**

One of the biggest features we have a La Trobe is we have an enormous amount of practical training.

**Veena Venugopal (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

It was a good combination of doing a little bit of study and a little bit of practical.

**Pierre Faou (France) Double Masters in Biotechnology and Business Administration:**

At first I thought that technical skills were the most important skills an education would give me but then I realised that many employers are also looking for good communication skills, people able to work in teams efficiently and that is what the Master of Biotech has been teaching me.

**Dr Peter Cartwright – Associate Dean (International and Development):**

Our students should be technically competent but you really want them to learn and to think and then go along and be creative scientists.

**Veena Venugopal (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

All the skills that we have learnt here are really, really important in that, I think that is what employers are looking for.

**Aparna Chauhan (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

Better knowledge as well, theoretical knowledge as well as practical knowledge.

**Dr Peter Cartwright – Associate Dean (International and Development):**

It’s really about creating a lot of self-esteem, confidence to make your own decisions and go and be a leader in your field.

**Ingo Brand (Germany) PhD in Biochemistry:**

For me it was important to improve my English because in the scientific area where I’m working, it’s really important to communicate with other scientists and the language we use is English.

**Aparna Chauhan (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

Being international students, it actually gives you a lot of exposure when you come out of the country.

**Professor Paul Fisher Associate Dean (Research):**

The great advantage for an international student coming to La Trobe is not only that they get to work with internationally renowned researchers, but La Trobe has a wonderful reputation for making people feel welcome and at home.

**Aparna Chauhan (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

The staff really encourages you. They are very knowledgeable and they are experts in their own fields but they also encourage you to explore.

**Dr Peter Cartwright – Associate Dean (International and Development):**

There are a lot of things in place to help students become familiar with the system and familiar with the way we operate, the culture that exists here. We are very committed to ensuring that our students have as many opportunities to learn industry practice as possible. We have a whole range of programs. The students find these extremely rewarding and often they lead to longer-term employment when students finish the course.

**Shainie Jesurasan (Sri Lanka) Double Masters in Biotechnology and Business Administration:**

When you’re studying you just refer back to your textbook, you speak to your lecturers but you’re not really sure how you’re going to apply it. Actually doing it gives you a whole new perspective. It gives me that added experience which then looks good when I apply for future positions.

**Professor Paul Fisher Associate Dean (Research):**

La Trobe not only has access to international postgraduate research scholarships, it also provides its own scholarships and provides fee remissions scholarships as well for the best candidates.

**Ingo Brand (Germany) PhD in Biochemistry:**

I received a La Trobe University scholarship. It was a fee waiver scholarship and also an income scholarship. It helped me through my time here in Australia and helped me to successfully finish my PhD studies.

**Aparna Chauhan (India) Masters of Biotechnology and Bio-informatics:**

What also I would take a long with me are my friends that I made here.

**Ingo Brand (Germany) PhD in Biochemistry:**

The social time here was fantastic. We are having games nights together, some volleyball tournaments, actually everything which gets people together and lets us spend time together.

**Pierre Faou (France) Double Masters in Biotechnology and Business Administration:**

I cannot go anywhere on campus without running into someone I know, which is great because I really feel I am part of this community.

**Ingo Brand (Germany) PhD in Biochemistry:**

In La Trobe I found a family and a lot of good friends as well