

Many thanks goes to the fantastic interns of 2006 who are:
Lam, Bernice, Durita, Anthony, Fiona, Stephen, Gladys,
Jackson, Tsao, Phoebe, Natasha, Dinushka, Jiroh, Lu,
Phi-Lyn, Shea-Li, Jianfa (Ben), Pankaj, Evelyn, Vu, Daniel
and Holly

Interns views:

Our 2006 interns get a chance to talk about their experiences as an intern and what they have achieved. They are able to give future interns an insight into highlights of volunteering and their time as a Monash University student.

Question 1. Tell us about the highlights of your course and the subjects you enjoyed?

Evelyn: Currently, I am undertaking Honours in Arts having completed my undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree last year. What I love about having done an Arts degree is the flexibility the course offers. During my time at Monash so far, I have taken a broad range of subjects ranging from criminology and politics to sociology and linguistics. My time at Monash has been great because I have been able to learn about different aspects of society from a wide variety of perspectives.

Daniel: I am doing a Bachelor of Psychology and Management/Marketing with majors in Psychology and Marketing. The marketing facet of my course has been the most enjoyable as there are some subjects within this field that require students to come up with creative solutions to hypothetical problems, which I enjoy more than just learning slabs of theory without being able to apply the theory. The most enjoyable subjects I have encountered so far were: Buyer Behaviour, Marketing Theory and Practice, Organisational Psychology and Marketing Research Methods as they required some imagination at times.

Tsao: A Bachelor of Commerce is a course I would highly recommend to those generally interested in businesses and the corporate arena. Commerce is a broad faculty, with many vast disciplines on offer such as accounting, finance, econometrics, management, economics, business law and marketing. Although I have elected to major in Accounting, I am grateful for the opportunity to study the introductory units from other discipline, as it extended and developed my knowledge substantially. The Commerce degree at Monash Uni ensure business students of this modern age are well-rounded and equipped with lateral thinking of how organisations function and are affected in society. I really enjoyed the study of Corporate Social Responsibility in one of my management subjects and hope to further my interests in this area academically and when I come out to work. Finance Law and macroeconomics are both very applicable subjects to the real world and good for your own personal knowledge.

Lam: As a Commerce and Business Systems student, the analytical and technical skills studied in both disciplines have given me a greater insight into the business sector and the changing role of technology in the way we do business in today. What attracted me to the course was its emphasis on critical thinking and especially with the Business Systems part of the degree; an industry relevant focus. I'm currently pursuing an accounting major as it also draws from many other disciplines such as Economics, Finance and Business Law. A highlight of my course would have to be an Industry Based Learning (IBL) placement at AXA Australia. This placement has allowed me to apply the skills and concepts learnt at university to real world situations. I've relished the challenge and it has given me a better understanding of which career path I would like to pursue.

Stephen: I am currently in the final year of my Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science. I am completing majors in accounting and computer science and a minor in mathematics. The most enjoyable aspect of my course is being able to learn two very separate but complementary disciplines and to see how they can relate to each other. The most enjoyable subjects to date have been those that are difficult, these require you to some independent learning, and the overall satisfaction for your grade is much greater.

Anthony: The highlights of my course would be when you are with your mates and enjoying university life. Doing a bachelor of Business Systems I enjoyed Project Management since it is a field I am interested in perusing. The subject involved working in-groups to manage a project. I also enjoyed my electives in Philosophy, since it allowed for open discussion and a medium to discuss and theorises on issues.

Fiona: Some of the highlights of my course have been meeting people from all sorts of ethnic backgrounds. My favourite subjects so far have been:
BUS 2700 Integrated Business Systems SAP
BUS 2011 Programming for Business Applications
BUS 2030 Business Communications
BUS 3112 Database Systems and Data Management

Holly: I am in my third year of a double degree in Communications/Multimedia Systems (Applications). This is a complicated way to say that I am studying the theoretical and practical side of media. There is a lot of variety in my course and I've had the flexibility to pursue an interest in international relations alongside very practical units in areas like animation, design and video editing. The regular team-based studio units, which involve an unsupervised three-month project in conjunction with real clients, have allowed me to develop some very useful skills, such as tender writing, product pitching and team management. Another highlight of my course was a seven-month Monash Abroad semester at Uppsala University's Department of Government in Sweden. Monash gave me a very generous scholarship to do this, and I was subsequently able to travel through Scandinavia, Continental Europe, Estonia and Russia. This was an excellent opportunity for someone who wishes to eventually work in an international environment.

Gladys: I'm a final year student completing a Commerce degree majoring in Finance. I enjoyed most of my Finance subjects as it gave me an insight on financial matters and a better appreciation of numbers. I've also done a few Business Law subjects which I find very complimentary to my Finance major as it improved my understanding with the Finance subjects that I have completed or currently undergoing.

Bernice: I am currently in my fourth and final year studying Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor Economics degrees and specialising in finance, business law and economics. I chose this course, as I believe it allows me to engage in a wide area of business and gives me the scope to be better equipped in thinking from a number of different perspectives. The benefits have become more evident recently when I have been applying for graduate positions. One thing that many employers have acknowledged is the importance of having a wide range of skills and knowledge in today's working climate. Some subjects I have enjoyed studying throughout my time at University include Stock Exchange and Derivatives Law; Current Issues in Applied Microeconomics; Economics of Developing Countries; and Competition and Regulation.

Dinushka: The highlight of my course was how flexible and enjoyable it was. Media and Communications is such a vast and interesting field. It includes subjects of more practical knowledge and subjects where you can use your day-to-day experiences to relate to subject matter. I chose this major, as I did not want to be just another go with the flow person, and enrol in a major I was not comfortable doing. This major has enhanced my communication skills and helped me look at things critically. I have enjoyed most of my media subjects and would recommend it to anyone any day.

Vu: I am studying Commerce/Economics and thoroughly enjoying it. The biggest highlight would be the large number of friends I have met. It has definitely made me aware of broader personalities, interests and cultures people have.

It has been a pleasure to undertake the unit ENH1260 (Professional Writing). It teaches students how to write succinctly, better express their ideas and persuade others. It is a unit everyone should do.

Jackson: It was with luck as well as determination that after six years of high school life, I was admitted to the Bachelor of Accounting scholarship course. The opportunity to work at three different companies during the course of my university degree would certainly be the highlight of my course. In a world of fierce competition to secure employment after university, those 38 weeks of work experience would certainly help distinguish myself from the others to potential employers.

Phoebe: The highlight of my course has been the variety of things I have become involved in. During my time at university, I have maintained two part-time jobs, became involved in many clubs and society (became a careers and employment intern in my last semester) and also practice Latin dancing as a short course at Monash. I have found my Commerce degree to be fantastic, I

have not only acquired a wide range of technical skills, but also developed network with many fellow students and teachers. My favourite subject so far has been Business Law in first year, it was very interesting and helpful.

Question 2: Tell us about the clubs and activities you have enjoyed as a student?

Evelyn: I have been a member of a few different clubs during my time at Monash. Although I haven't really been that involved in them, I've gone along to some of the social activities that they have run, especially those on campus. My advice would be to go along and check out any clubs you're interested in joining on Orientation day or during the first few weeks of semester – this is a great way to meet new people.

Daniel: At Uni I have been a member of the marketing society and have found the corporate cocktail events to be quite interesting and enjoyable.

Tsao: I was a member of the ASEAN club and had a memorable time attending the Winter Wonderland Ball organised at Albert by the Lake. I participated in Young Achievement Australia (YAA), a practical education program which sponsors student formed business. It was a very, invaluable experience, because as Accounting and Finance Planning Manager within my company, I could apply the analytical skills and in-depth knowledge that my course set out to teach students, to a practical business situation. It was not until in my penultimate year, that I realised how much support Monash University's Careers and Employment Service provided to students. In my time at Monash, I have attended all their employability workshop sessions, spoken to a careers counsellor, had my resume checked, attended careers fairs and utilised their website. The year before, I even found out about YAA through the Careers Fair! Before I graduate, I intend to participate in the Future Leaders program, making every effort to excel in establishing my future career and developing my interpersonal skills for life.

Lam: Being apart of clubs such as the Fellowship of Middle Earth (FOME) societies and the Economics & Commerce student society (ECSS) gives me a great opportunity to interact with students outside the classroom. It's thrilling to talk to people who share the same interest and hobbies; an environment where you feel that you belong.

Stephen: The most enjoyable activity during my time at Monash was playing lunch time cricket. If you aren't much of a cricket fan there are other sports available such as indoor soccer, netball and volleyball. It is as competitive and fun as you make it. I highly recommend forming a team amongst your friends and have a go!

Anthony: The best feeling on a warm summer's day is walking out of a lecture and having a bbq! Since at Monash there is always one on, it's just a matter of joining the right club. The ECCS also has a lot of affiliations out of university, which is good. Host Scheme Night, O Week and Greenweek are

activities, which I have enjoyed and have given me some unforgettable memories.

Fiona: At Monash there is a myriad of activities and clubs that one can get involved in, and I have barely had a chance to take full advantage of them. I have however enjoyed taking Street Latin dance classes at the Short Course Centre, Debating in my first year of uni, volunteering during orientation week, and being an active member of Student Life, one of the religious clubs on campus.

Holly: I study at the small, high-tech and sparkingly white campus at Berwick. It is still a young campus but there is plenty to do if you look for it. I spent a year as the Editor for the campus magazine, which involved designing 250+ pages, editing copious articles and falling asleep in the student union at all hours of the morning. I am also a member of the Marketing Society and have been involved in promotion activities like Open Day, International Student Orientation and high school visits. These activities are always a lot of fun and are a great way to meet people and demonstrate leadership skills in interviews. Always ready to snag any media experience I can get, I was part of a team of Australians who developed and delivered a weekly English-language program for Swedish community radio. To prove that I go out of my way to overcommit myself, I also studied individual units from a TAFE Diploma of Illustration – this was mainly to ensure my painting hobby survived the university semesters!

Gladys: As an international tertiary student, I believe in getting the most out of my tertiary experience in Australia. In my first and second year of university, I stayed in Richardson Hall which is one of the on campus residential halls. It was there that was when I was first exposed to the Australian culture and living in an international environment. I attended most of the social activities and outings organised by the Richardson Hall committee such as the Toga Night and Superheroes Night. In my first year, I had a very memorable Orientation week at Richardson Hall and followed on to be part of the Orientation committee in the following year.

In addition, I've joined several social clubs like the Monash University Malaysian Students Union and the Japanese Club and occasionally attend the social events organised by them.

Apart from that, I am also an active committee member in the SICCC (Society of Commerce and Computing) which is a corporate club. I am constantly involved in organising events for SICCC such as our annual Corporate Dinner, Pool night and Barbecues. Through SICCC, I was also able to work with other clubs to organise interclub events such as the formal ball organised with ASEAN Caulfield and the International Law Society, and Interclub Sporting events. I enjoy my work as well as my time working with my fellow committee members.

Bernice: If there is one thing that I would recommend to students entering University or even those in their first or second years would be to seriously consider doing a double degree or honours because the knowledge gained from an extra year or two of study really reflects positively on employers.

Although I made a conscious decision to study my course for this very reason, the importance of this decision has only become apparent to me recently. However, it is also important to maintain a life outside of University studies, including having a part-time job, playing sport or other forms of exercise, joining clubs and interest groups and also socialising with friends. Without these forms of 'escape' I think I would have gone crazy.

Dinushka: I have not been part of a club as such, but have participated in many activities hosted by the university. They were all worth while, and an experience not to be missed. However, being a part of the internship offered by the careers and employment office, proved to be useful and enjoyable.

Vu: Participating in the Monyx Future Leaders program was an eye opening experience. I definitely had a lot of those Ahem! moments (when that light globe on top of your head lights up). The program showed me how important it was to feel confident and comfortable within myself. Only then, would other team members naturally follow my lead.

Jackson: As a Monash student, and as a student with a Chinese background, I joined the Monash Cantonese Christian Fellowship; this was the place where I met the majority of my current friends from. Having a good balance and enjoying life as a university student is important, as once you start work, the long weekends and the 12 hours sleep would be out of sight, especially the long 4 month holiday most university students enjoy.

Phoebe: I joined a few clubs such as ASEAN and SICCC, where I was able to take advantage of their employer info sessions and also participated in many fun and active social events.

Question 3: What is your current career goal?

Evelyn: Well, like many of you out there, at the moment I have several directions in which I could possibly take my career, ranging from applying for positions in Government roles, to undertaking postgraduate study. At the moment however, it is to finish Honours successfully!

Daniel: At this stage I am looking for a job in marketing (in sport/tourism areas) and event management. Ultimately, enjoyment within my career is most important and I may find that event management and marketing are not for me, but at the moment they are my two ideal areas.

Tsao: Whether I am naturally inclined to follow the path of accounting, or work as a skilled business professional in the areas of business consulting and advisory, it has always been a vision of mine to work for a well established organisation. I enjoy public speaking and conducting presentations. I hope to one day undertake the role of project manager; leading a team of enthusiastic

individuals committed to achieving something creative, and making a difference in our organisation and the wider society.

Lam: My greatest short term goal is to make the most out of my university experience and stay focus on my studies. In terms of professional development, I prioritise continual growth and improvement. I would like to start my career as a graduate in an Accounting firm. I'm looking for a dynamic environment that offers stimulating and challenging work that is constantly evolving. I would also like to gain professional accreditation with the Institute of Chartered Accountants to further my technical skills and understanding of Accounting.

Stephen: My current career goal is to find a job related to my course which will value the skills I have developed during my time at Monash and support me in completing my accounting accreditation.

Anthony: My current career goal is to establish myself in an IT management role. That said what ever makes one happy and content should be your main goal, with your career goal as a means to an end for ones greater goal.

Fiona: I am looking forward to exploring the working world and the opportunities that are out there. I know that it will be very competitive but I hope to be able to put into practice what I have learnt in my Business Systems degree.

Holly: I have always wanted to keep my options open, which is why I have studied in so many different fields. I'm about to commence a sandwich year with GM Holden, working as a Corporate Affairs Assistant to the managers for Internal Communications and Media and Government Relations. Basically this is tied to my intention to work in public policy and will give me an edge at public service graduate selection. At this stage, I have my eyes set on graduate recruitment that has an international focus, such as Dept. of Defence, DIMA or DFAT. However, I do realise that building a career is a bit like a game of snakes and ladders, so I will take any opportunities as they arrive and see where they take me. I have very adaptable skills that cover a broad range of industries and I have a curiosity to match, so I am looking forward to a varied and challenging career.

Gladys: My current career goal is to be able to find a job related to my studies. Therefore I look forward to getting a job in the banking sector and hope to find part time work experience that is related to my current career goal.

Bernice: My aim for my future career is to obtain a position in a graduate program next year (2007), as I believe it is a nice, structured way to enter the full-time working environment. The firms that offer such programs provide much support and training for graduates in this position. Some of the places I have applied for include: CBA, Westpac, ANZ, NAB, BP, GE, APRA and various Government Departments. Alternatively, employment in any kind of professional capacity pertaining to my Uni degree would be fantastic. I would

be more than happy to relocate interstate or even overseas in order to fill a position in any of these organisations, as I believe it adds to the learning curve and life experience.

Dinushka: My goal at the moment is to finish my degree at the end of this year, and get a job in the relevant industry. My goals are also to better myself along the way, give of myself and grab every opportunity possible. I hope these goals become a reality someday.

Vu: I anticipate entering into the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Industry after completing my Commerce/Economics degree. I would like to be given the flexibility to move between the marketing and statistics departments within my company. Currently, I hold loose objectives about my future and I am very much open to new ideas. The average Australian changes their job five times and industry twice. I don't want to confine my opportunities. There might be something better around the corner.

Jackson: Having secured employment with the help of Careers and Employment, my current career goal would be to start my professional CA (Chartered Accountants) qualifications as soon as I'm eligible to, and I look forward to a career of exploration and challenges in the Accounting and Finance industry.

Phoebe: My current career goal is to get a graduate program hopefully at a large-midtier firm. Where I am able to receive extensive training and possibly starting the CA program in 2008.

Question 4 What aspect of your time at Monash helped you prepare for your future career?

Evelyn: During my time at Monash, I have been able to learn about different aspects of society from a wide variety of perspectives and honed my research skills. Thanks to the Careers and Employment office, I have also been able to meet with careers counsellors and speak directly with employers at events such as the Careers Fair to discover just what options are out there for an Arts student - and yes people, they do exist!

Daniel: University has assisted in my ability to handle pressure. Assignments tend to come around at the same time for all subjects and this ensures that students adapt and improve their organisational skills in order to cope with the pressure of a lot of work at one time. In terms of my future career this is vital, as in event management there will be times when work is more hectic than usual (event time) and, with regard to marketing, it will help me stay calm in the face of deadlines that need to be met. Furthermore, I now understand that the finer details (e.g. presentation) can make a considerable difference. Also, learning from the mistakes of others and not just your own mistakes is pivotal. For example, in Psychology, subjects usually have multiple choice exams and as a consequence there have been a few people who have decided not to do

more than a couple of hours study and fail as a result. I have consequently learnt not to underestimate anything that I cannot control.

Tsao: I've always held the impression that Monash University was the best place for me to obtain my tertiary qualifications. My experience at Monash, to date is conclusive of this statement. The enthusiastic academic staff, keen students' who want to learn, backed up by the devoted staff at Careers and Employment offering their constant encouragement, guidance and services makes for a small community-like environment abuzz with a diverse range of talented people, steadfast in achieving their personal goals or accomplishing something of value. It is from this sense of belonging, that I in part, derive that notion of advancing toward the future. With this in mind, and testament to the general environment encompassing our little suburban Clayton campus, there is no doubt in my mind that Monash graduates display qualities of efficiency, commitment and motivation.

Lam: Monash provides a sound environment with which to learn and develop yourself academically and personally. The teaching staff and university services such as those provided by the Careers and Employment Office have helped me determine what career path I like to pursue. Programs offered by the University; such as the Future Leaders scholarship gives you a greater insight into the qualities sought by employers and the areas where you can differentiate yourself from other individuals.

Stephen: Many aspects of my time at Monash have helped me prepare for my future career. There are many people prepared to give up their time to have a chat and help you out. I remember the best piece of advice I heard was that if I was unsure about what area of business to pursue, that accounting wouldn't be the worst choice. He told me that accounting can open many doors in business, understanding the numbers can get you to the top echelon within an organization, because to become a manager of a large organization doesn't mean you have taken a management degree at university.

Anthony: I would say the university itself prepares one for a future career. Monash has a very realistic approach to its subjects, campus life and expectations.

Fiona: During my time here at Monash I have learned important life skills regarding how to deal with different kinds of people who you will encounter in the future in the workplace. Through group work, and class discussions I have learnt how to deal with uncooperative people, dominant personalities, and people with different language backgrounds and how to manage and mobilize a group to get a specific job done. These skills are invaluable as they will come in handy wherever I go and I will be equipped to deal with different types of people in different situations.

Holly: Being able to sample so many disciplines has been very important to me. Even before I started university I knew what my strengths were, but I was a little lost as to where I could apply them. Fortunately, Monash has exposed

me to a range of careers I hadn't even considered. My experience abroad and studies in international relations have completely changed my future ambitions. The practical base of my course has made me much more employable and has taught me to balance my creativity with the realities of industry. The ability to get involved in projects like this internship has rounded out the experience and allowed me to develop basic employability skills that I wasn't getting from part time work as a cash register monkey.

Gladys: I was privileged to be able to participate in the Future Leaders program. After attending the 2 day Future Leaders workshop, I was motivated to improve myself and put my new found knowledge of leadership into practice effectively.

I've also attended several employability workshops organised by the Monash Careers and Employment as well. Through these workshops, it gave me a better understanding of what employers look for in graduates and how I can prepare myself to be a more striking graduate.

Dinushka: Monash University is a very prestigious and world renowned name. As a result getting in and maintaining good grades are a challenge. This is one thing that has equipped me for the future, to want to always do better, and achieve a high standard, which in turn raises my personal best. Monash is a University where you can hope to exceed your personal best and set high standards for yourself.

Vu: Monash gave me the perspective that I am one individual in a very big world. People don't seem to care as much about you as when you were younger. This just means you have to work harder to be noticed and portray yourself as DIFFERENT. Another important lesson I have learnt from Monash is there is always help available. But it takes a lot of effort to find it. You need to search high, low and all around.

Jackson: It is for certain that the technical and academic skills gained from the structured approach provided by Monash helped me to prepare for my career in Accounting. However, the many 'soft' skills gain from eg. C&E internship as well as being part of the variety of clubs offered in Monash certainly helps me to prepare for a challenging career ahead.

Phoebe: Quality technical knowledge from my course.
Group assignments which shaped me into a well-rounded team player.
Ability to affectively manage my time whilst juggling in between university and part-time work.
Networking and fellow students and teachers.

Question 5. What did you want to achieve from your time as an Intern and have you achieved it?

Evelyn: Undertaking this Internship has been fantastic, as I have been able to learn more about the wide range of information and events that are designed to help students like us with our future careers. This internship has also enabled me to meet lots of great new people from a wide range of courses

and campuses (as well as the wonderful staff at Careers and Employment) and gain experience in new areas, such as assisting with aspects of the various careers fairs.

Daniel: The principal aim of my internship was to gain a greater insight into event management. This was achieved via participation in the running of the Vacation Employment Fair at Clayton and the International Careers Fair at Caulfield. A lot of organisation and hard work is done by the careers and employment office personnel and it epitomises the ideology that hard work breeds success. Further, I found that event management can be enjoyable as the success of an event leaves a feeling of satisfaction.

Tsao: I initially joined this internship to gain insight into organising events, promotion, communication and enhancing my work experience. I also wanted to grasp some ideas on what other activities we can engage in, whilst still students, to enhance our employability. Through working at the Careers and Employment office, I realised I had been productively utilising their services over the years without being conscious of it, and that all these services were developed by one division on campus. As Monash students, we are so fortunate to have a dedicated team at Careers and Employment assisting with our career path and transition from university to professional employment. As an intern, the facilitating coordinator taught and provided guidance to us on how to identify and target suitable applications and harness our skill in constructing effective resumes.

Lam: My main goal for the Internship was to gain work experience and having the opportunity to work with people from Industry. The Internship has exposed me to work such as industry research and event liaison; something which I have not really experienced in other work placements. Working with employees at the Careers Fair was one of the highlights of the placement. It was actually very interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes and the running of such a large event.

Stephen: I applied to be an intern to improve my understanding of the labour market, and the opportunities that exist for graduates beyond the advertised graduate positions. I believe I have achieved through learning how to spot opportunities in the newspapers and surfing around on the internet.

Anthony: I wanted to achieve a greater understanding for the graduate recruitment process. What it entailed, and areas which would be useful to understand. I believe through the various activities I have achieved it.

Fiona: I wanted to expand my knowledge on the companies that are out there that employ people with my skills and also try and find opportunities within these companies to start my career as a graduate. I however was disappointed to find that most of the companies were not open to accepting international students into their graduate programs, and this left me feeling discouraged.

Holly: Coming into the internship I was approaching my final year of study and I was therefore very aware of the fact that I had to prepare for graduate selection. Public service selection is extremely competitive and I wanted to give myself the best possible chance. Assisting at the Career Essentials day gave me some extra public speaking practice and work in the Clayton office helped me prove my research skills in interviews. I wanted to better understand the recruitment process and employment trends, as well as researching any career avenues I may have overlooked. It is very unlikely that I would have attended the Vacation Employment Fair had I not been assisting as an intern at the event. I was under the misconception that vacation employment was only for accountants and engineers. To cut a long story short, I ended up signing a 13-month contract with Holden, and consequently had to withdraw my application from late round selection for Daimler Chrysler and Department of Premier and Cabinet. The simple fact that I wouldn't have even known about these opportunities was reason enough to justify the Careers and Employment internship. I should now be much more prepared for graduate selection, as I will have some industry experience in an iconic international company. One job leads to the next, so they say.

Gladys: Before starting the internship program, I aimed to improve my confidence in my communication and networking skills as well as working with a team of people that I was unfamiliar with.

During the internship, I found that it was a very refreshing experience to work with a team of helpful people who were very enthusiastic about the internship program. Although it was a short period of time, I enjoyed working with my fellow interns and had plenty of opportunities to improve my communication and networking skills.

In addition, as an intern who was clueless about what would be expected of interns in this program, I thought that our mentor was very helpful and did an excellent job in explaining our roles and responsibilities.

Bernice: I must admit that I was not aware of the Careers and Employment Internship until I had a careers counselling session with Pamela Horlor (Internship Coordinator). She informed me about the Internship and how to apply to get me interested, and then told me that applications were closing that day!! So I rushed home and sent Pam my application along with my resume and was delighted to gain a place in the Internship. When I applied, I wasn't quite sure what to expect or how much was expected of me. During the course of the Internship I have engaged in a number of activities such as researching employer information, conducting awareness surveys and helping at the Careers Fair. I would have to say, as I think most Interns would, that the highlight of the Internship is participating in the Careers Fair and liaising with employers and also interacting with the other Interns and members of the Careers and Employment Department. Through these opportunities I have gained a lot of experience, made many new friends and also learned a lot about myself. I would advise other Interns to be confident in yourself and to put yourself out there.

Dinushka: I wanted to gain experience in basically anything I possibly could relating to my studies, and receiving an internship from Monash was a

goldmine. I enjoyed it very much, and I hoped to build my people skills, familiarize myself with people working in the university get a 'foot in the door' and get a head start for my career. I think I was able to achieve this and more, and I am truly satisfied and content.

Vu: My aim as an Intern was see all the avenues of opportunity the Careers Office had to offer. I was very surprised by the vast amount of resources the office had and the detailed help the staff would give to students. The internship has helped me become aware of the transitional process from university student to full time employee. It shows me what employers are looking for and what questions I have to ask myself to establish a successful career.

Jackson: The main reason I joined the internship was to familiar myself with the process of transition from university to work, having joined the internship, I was able to see first hand what graduate employers require from students and the ability to mingle with employers before the rushing crowd certainly helps. However, the experience gained from this internship exceed my expectations in that on top of the ability to mingle with employers, I made a group of new friends with which I still keep contact with after the internship program.

Phoebe: I became involved in the internship, primarily because I wanted to improve my communication, interpersonal, leadership, and organisational skills. I have been able to successfully improve on these skills whilst being involved in facilitation the Monash Careers Fair, working together with fellow interns and networking with the friendly and helpful staff at Monash Careers and Employment.

Question 6: What advice would you give to future interns?

Evelyn: For future Interns, my best advice is that you should not be afraid to give new things a go! I originally wanted to do Arts/Law, and got in after doing a year of Arts. However, after one and a half years, I decided that this was not for me, and decided to go back to doing just Arts and then apply to do Honours instead – the best move I ever made. Many of my friends have also changed degrees during their time at university, and are now much happier for it. So if you are thinking of switching to a different career path, try it! Also, if you have found that some of the clubs or sporting activities on offer aren't really for you, I would really encourage you to do this Internship, as you really do feel like you are part of the university community and learn a lot. There are also many people at Monash who are there to help you, like the great staff at the Careers and Employment office. Make the most of the wonderful opportunities that are available to you!

Daniel: The obvious advice is to grasp any opportunities that are within reach. However, to expand I would suggest that you should have a specific knowledge of the career you want. If, however, you are like the many who have struggled to determine the perfect career path, then you should at the very least have an understanding of a couple of careers that appeal. Then you can attempt to find ways to ensure you have every opportunity to succeed in

each one of the careers. In my case I found myself torn between a number of career paths before I began the internship. While I have not completely decided to head down one specific path, I do have a greater understanding of what is required in event management and my chances of recognition within the field have been improved by the internship. Ultimately, the internship is a great opportunity to provide experience in research and event management but it is not for everyone. If you go in wanting to gain experience, improve your skills and meet new people then you will get something out of it. Furthermore, the careers staff you will meet are always happy to help if need be, so don't hesitate to ask questions.

Tsao: It's a good thing you're thinking in advance about your career, as it is not solely academic merits that will guarantee you future success in employment. Whilst knowledge is power, and every effort you make in your studies is for yourself, it is important to ensure you lead a well diversified life. Get in early and join the vast extracurricular activities waiting for you, whether it is, future leaders, employability workshops, YAA, internship or any other Monash or external to Monash activities.

Keep aware of events, challenge yourself to embark on diverse opportunities, study hard and enjoy your time at uni. I part by quoting the words of Benjamin Franklin:

Dost thou love life?

*Then do not squander time,
for that is the stuff life is made of.*

Lam: Where a long sleeve shirt underneath your Monash T-shirt at the Careers Fair; especially when it's approaching Winter. Oh, and do wear comfortable shoes as you'll be doing a lot of running.

On a more serious note; do make the most of your university experience. The Internship gives you a great opportunity to see what happens behind the scenes and obtain skills which you wouldn't be exposed to anywhere else.

Stephen: Enjoy!

Anthony: Be prepared for careers day! Also take some time to get to know the representatives on careers day since it may come in handy in later stages of the application. In addition aim to get your applications in sooner rather than later.

Fiona: My advice to future interns especially international students is that the internship is a good place to get contacts for future use and a great opportunity to meet students from different campuses and faculties.

Holly: I think it is important that interns know what they want out of the internship before they begin and make the most of the resources available to them. Use the opportunity to explore employment avenues and assess the skills required in your particular discipline. Even if you are working on projects that aren't directly applicable to your degree (for example, I learnt a lot about Environmental Science!), there should be common ground that you can take away from it. Most jobs require the same basic skills set and talking to HR

representatives at the careers fairs might be surprising – your general skills may be more transferable than you think. Furthermore, you can use the internship to demonstrate your initiative and leadership abilities. While you have all these skilled and knowledgeable people at your fingertips, use the time to professionalise your resume and learn about the application process (it is extremely involved and very time consuming, so the more you know now the better!). Lastly, if you are not based at Clayton, use your home campus as an additional opportunity to assist at events and gain localised information.

Gladys: I would advise future interns to be positive, quick to listen and expect anything and everything in their internship so that they would be able to get the most of their internship and gain an invaluable experience.

Bernice: Recently, I have done a number of crazy things such as skydiving in Queenstown, New Zealand; aerobatic plane flights over the Mornington Peninsula and Monster Truck Driving. All of these activities have definitely put me outside my comfort zone and forced me to take a leap (literally!) into the unknown. It is often just as important in life to take a step outside what you are familiar with in order to gain the most out of an experience or situation. So go for it, do what you have to do as well as that little bit extra in order to get the most out of life.

Dinushka: I would encourage them to grab every opportunity, make the best of it, and enjoy it, which is the main thing. As long as you're enjoying what you do, then you will do well. I urge them to get involved and get active, university life does not consist of only lectures and tutorials but a whole lot more, friends, activities, free food and a whole lot of late nights and deadlines to meet, so dive into it!

Vu: This is your All Access Pass into the Careers Office. This is where all the jobs are found and the exclusive ticket to learn how to pass all those graduate interviews tests with ease. Some of the assigned jobs at the careers office can be dreadfully boring. Nevertheless, stay positive and hang in there. It is also a great place to meet friends and discuss the good and bad traits of being a uni student.

Jackson: My advice for the future interns would certainly be to enjoy your privilege to mingle with employers, and to keep an open mind in their own career paths. Despite the fact that most would want to join large corporations and firms after they graduate, it is also important however to keep in mind that there are unbounded opportunities extending well beyond the large corporations. Take the opportunity to talk with all of the employers present in the careers fair, and who knows what opportunities would arise from talking to the potential employers?

Phoebe: My advice is to get as much experience that you can get your hands on and make as many networks as possible. Most of all, ask questions about your career so you are well informed at the end of your course to make the right career decision.