

All comes to an exciting end as a student in Monash

By Shea Li Lim

After completing my pre-university at the end of 2002 in the Canadian Matriculation Program at one of the local colleges in my home country, I wasn't sure where I should be heading. I had never thought of Monash as my first choice, but at last I enrolled in the Bachelor of Communication at the Malaysia campus in 2003. Since I had studied for almost 13 years in Malaysia, I wanted to experience more as a student. Thus, I chose to study abroad in Australia. Until today, each and every new person I met would ask me why I'd chosen Gippsland as my ideal campus instead of Clayton or Caulfield. I came from a metropolitan area and I thought the countryside would be a good chance for me to expand my horizon and better my studies. Currently, I am undertaking a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) which allows me to minor in two other units; Behavioural studies and Journalism. Upon completing my degree at the end of this year, I found that all the units I had taken before gave me good theoretical and practical senses respectively. Although Communication is my major, I mostly enjoyed my classes in Behavioural studies and Journalism. Both units have taught me a great deal about presentation and practical thinking. While the Communication unit has been a struggle for me, I'm glad that I'll be completing my finals soon after all my hard work throughout these years.

When I study hard, I play hard too. I was a Publicity Officer with the International Student's Association (ISA) and Photography Club in 2005 & 2006 respectively. I was encouraged to take up this position by good friends who thought I'd do well in publications, even though I never thought I had the skills that could be used in the workplace. From there, I gained confidence bit by bit and now I'm not afraid to showcase my skills to people who need me at work. I am proud of myself for what I've done because I believe that if one does his/her work sincerely and accordingly, he/she will be awarded. It proved right when I was awarded the Most Outstanding Volunteer Award in ISA for my campus in 2005.

I am sure all potential graduates are scratching their heads now thinking what their next step would be after this. This includes myself, as I stress about getting good grades in assignments as well as the uncertainty of gaining permanent residency in Australia. Nevertheless, this does not hold me back from searching for jobs that would be ideal as a start-off. As some of my close friends advised me previously, I shouldn't be too choosy and perhaps accept a job that is near to my dream career. Currently, I'm interested in event management and this field would be a stepping stone to a career that could provide me with a good life and most importantly, something I enjoy doing.

So far during my time at university, I am glad that I've befriended many different people from various cultures and backgrounds. These people have taught me a lot in understanding the inside and outside of university culture. Meanwhile, during the study period, assignments given by lecturers are designed to provide students with the chance to prove what they've got individually. Additionally, I've developed a great deal of creative thinking and it has helped me with my presentation and written work. Also, the Student Union at my campus has played an important part in my life. The Union has organized many events over the years and I've participated in most of them. Overall, I think the Union has done a fantastic job. Their existence has changed my life as a student because without their effortless contribution towards these events, Monash wouldn't be the university that it is. Recently, I've been helping the union casually and feel that their work is interesting and I'd love to pursue it further if given the opportunity – yet another possible stepping stone to my dream career! I'm certain that Monash has prepared me adequately to step into a whole new world – the working world.

I am happy that I was chosen to be one of the Monash University Careers and Employment's interns. I am also grateful to have met and worked with other wonderful interns from various campuses. This has given me the chance to exchange experiences with them and share different thoughts about daily life issues. Initially, I wanted to become an intern because I thought so much about how it would help in enhancing my career prospects.

Then I thought this internship has actually given me more than just that. The working experience with my fellow interns and Careers and Employment staff has taught me about patience, respect, time management and most importantly, teamwork. I've definitely achieved more than I thought I would before I joined this team. My time as an intern has come to an end and I've enjoyed my time working with Pam and her colleagues and of course the other interns who I now call friends.

As for the future interns, I'd say that you should pay close attention to instructions given and work accordingly. You'll develop many skills from this workplace and you'll work your way towards bettering those skills for prospective employers. Treat this internship as part of a valuable experience because you never know how much this would mean to you until the end of the period. At last, enjoy working with the friendly-crazy Careers team and the other new interns!