

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, university staff ladies and gentlemen, fellow graduates, it's an immense honour and a privilege to be standing here today as I'm sure many of you, for whom today marks your graduation, would agree. This afternoon, as I donned the gown, slid the sash over my shoulders and tried to figure out how to avoid getting hat hair with this thing, the immensity of the occasion hit me. For some of us, today marks the end of 2, 3, 5 years of study or longer, within ATMC. But for everyone, as cliché as it may sound, it marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another chapter of life.

When I made the decision to come and study in Melbourne I didn't realise that one day I would be standing here and speaking to all of you about my experience at Federation university. Two years ago, I took a huge step in my life by packing everything up from Pakistan and moving to Australia. I did this because I wanted to take a chance, to take on every opportunity available to me and it's been the best decision that I've ever made so far.

I am sure during the course of our degrees there may have been many times where the thought of graduating was just a figment of our imagination. However, today that dream has become reality. Federation university has helped us to get one step closer to achieving our goals. I have to say, the journey has been very memorable. Just think back to all the dreaded assignments and exams taken to achieve our goals. In my case, the e-lab and library became my new home. Caffeinated drinks became my new best friend, I'm sure I am not the only one who spent countless hours on YouTube and Facebook.

But despite of all this we made it, we all completed our degrees. The journey we have taken so far is just the beginning. The skills and knowledge we have gained throughout our time at Federation University has armed us with the competency, skills and confidence we need to succeed in whichever path we choose from here.

This ceremony is a time to reflect on the milestones we have achieved throughout our time at University, and to celebrate these achievements with our loved ones. It's a time to thank all those people around us who have supported us throughout our degree. Those loved ones who have been too scared to come home during assignment and exam periods. Those who were always there for us. The love and support of each and every one of you has pushed us through, and led us all here today. I feel proud to have such people in my life and I take this opportunity to thank my parents who are back in Pakistan and my husband who is here with me today to celebrate my success.

I would also like to take to opportunity to thank the lecturers , tutors, partners, families and friends of all the graduates here today for all the help and support they have provided throughout our years of study. There are many faces here today that I will always remember. The faces of those who would always ask that extra question at the end of class when everybody else wanted to go home, those students who would always finish their exams really early and leave the rest of the class baffled, as well as those students that always managed to look immaculate at an 8.30am lecture

while the rest of us still had pillow creases on the sides of our faces. These people may cross our path again one day, as our colleagues, or perhaps in future studies.

Today, I feel proud to be receiving my degree from Federation University. All the hard work that had been put in has finally paid off. Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for embarking on this journey with me.

To everyone in a gown this evening, congratulations, take this moment to be proud in what you've achieved today. may each and every one of you fill your roads ahead with a lifetime of new milestones, success and most of all, happiness.

I wish you all luck on your future endeavours. Thank you!