

Thien Thanh (Tristan) Tran – Bachelor of IT

Hi everyone,

I'm Tristan Tran, an international student from Vietnam, currently studying Bachelor of IT at Federation University. I came to Australia when I was 16 — started from high school in Melbourne, then a Diploma, and now I'm here, continuing my journey with all of you.

Like many of us, I've worked part-time jobs — kitchen hand, waiter, cleaner, bartender — all while managing studies and paying tuition and living costs. I've been through the rough patches: language barriers, culture shock, isolation, burnout, homesickness, COVID, and even robbery. But through those moments, I've built resilience and learned to stay open-minded. I believe confidence isn't about being loud — it's about knowing who you are and when to speak up. Our accents, our stories, and our culture are not weaknesses — they're what make us unique.

In my two years at FedUni, I've joined the tech, marketing, sports, research and student engagement teams. These roles helped me see what international students are going through — time management struggles, job-hunting stress, and feeling unsupported sometimes. I believe the uni can step in more — not just during Orientation, but throughout the year. Supports on balancing work and study, and better career preparation integrated into classes, can make a huge difference.

We all carry the hopes of our families, the pride of where we came from, and the dreams of who we want to be. If you ever feel like your voice is unheard, or your challenges invisible — I want to be the one to speak up for you.

As I always say: "Doing uni is not just about getting a degree — what you learn along the way is the real education."

Let's make that journey better.

Thien Thanh (Tristan) Tran