

Graduation Speech

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to thank the people who supported us to get to this point.

To the dedicated staff at Federation University, I thank you for delivering rich learning experiences that not only guided us, but challenged us to exercise skills we did not know we possessed. We have learnt to expand the way we think, problem solve, share our ideas and collaborate. Federation University has provided us with a fine education and today we celebrate the high degree of academic excellence we have attained. My fellow students are graduating from an array of programs and disciplines and I would like to acknowledge the diversity of awards presented today. Of the students graduating in this round of ceremonies, several have studied in various locations around Australia as well as overseas, including Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Our education is a powerful gift and as we prepare for the next stage of our lives, we are at such an advantage.

To our families who empowered us to pursue a higher learning, I cannot thank you enough. Over the last four years I have celebrated highs and endured lows and throughout this time I have had the continual support of my family. My Mum was forever encouraging. She urged me to persevere when I was exhausted and she was empathetic when I grew flustered. My Dad was with me every step of the way, from reading over each of my assessment pieces to sending a text message straight after a presentation. My sister, who was also my classmate, was someone I was able to share the journey with. I am thankful for her understanding and support. My partner, who was thoughtful enough to ask about every lecture, tutorial and assessment piece, I will always be indebted to you. And my extended family who provided a roof over my head to enable me to attend this great university, thank you. We can all appreciate the role our family members have played to ensure we made it here today – we will be forever grateful.

To my fellow students, we must thank each other for the friendships we have formed. These friendships are the foundation of a valuable and accessible learning network. The opportunity to tap into this network is an incredibly powerful resource.

Today, as graduates of Federation University, we are not only eager, but prepared to dive head first into the future. We leave here inspired to influence change, with the resilience to overcome any challenges that come our way. It is time to thrive in a world that is our own.