Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. I stand here, with the privilege of addressing you all this afternoon, on behalf of my wonderful fellow graduates. All of which are celebrating an end to one of greatest chapters of their lives so far.

Each person here, has a story to tell, a reason for being here, a time in our lives when we had a choice to make. We are all here because we made a choice, the choice to challenge ourselves, and to push ourselves into the unknown. Our choices have brought us all together to this momentous occasion.

There were times, like I imagine there were for many others here that were hard. I remember a time when I thought maybe it was time to just go back home, that University was not for me. All I had to do was walk in and tell me lecturers this. So that’s what I did however, instead of signing my piece of paper and sending me on my way like I expected, something else happened. I was met with overwhelming support and warmth from the staff, who took the time to listen and care, to make me feel like I was not just a brick in the wall. After this I left with a choice, to go or stay and thanks to the staff here, I chose to stay and took with me a passion and determination to face adversity and finish what I started. It was at this time that I realised that this place is not just a University, that this was a place that truly cared and fostered the individual.

This piece of paper, doesn’t do justice to what was gained here. Every single one of us here today will leave this place with not only a degree, but a breadth of knowledge and experience that we will carry for the rest of our lives and into the future.

To my fellow graduates, today we celebrate and rightfully so, because each and every one of you made a choice some time ago, and that choice, your determination, perseverance and passion brought you here, at the end of this chapter, and the beginning of your next. I would like to thank the staff, parents, and others who are with as today, and those who couldn’t be with us today who have supported the graduates here. After this, there is nothing that we cannot do. Thank you all!