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“Having the course tailor made for me meant that there was no effort wasted.”

-Warwick Brewster

Graduates tell us why Fortress works

☞ “Working for a Registered Training Organisation myself, I wanted to find a great company to complete the course with. I searched the internet high and dry to find a company that seemed legitimate, which had great courses, great timeframes and great prices. Fortress were so happy to help, after I completed my first course I knew I wanted to complete my second course with them.”

– Kaitlin McKivat

☞ “I really appreciated the support provided by Fortress Learning. Someone always responded to emails within a day and they provided me with helpful answers. I was very happy that communication was so good for an online course.”

– Jane Chivers

☞ “Economical and self-paced, allowing completion in a very timely manner. Very easy process overall and the intensity of the RPL process gave me confidence in its integrity.”

– Gregory Scriven

☞ “I found the people of Fortress to be supportive, flexible and understanding. Responses to assessment submissions and email were quick and helpful, and submitting assessments via the dashboard was very efficient. The work was challenging and rewarding and I finished with a great sense of achievement and excitement.”

– Jo Collins

★★★★★ TRUSTPILOT





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CSU students meet Bhutanese locals, Anna Eggleton in Japan, the Concorde, Oscar Morrison in New York City.

The world's happiest people



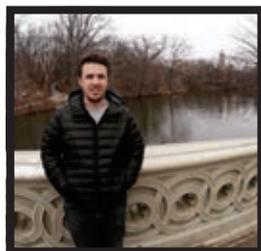
WHERE IN THE WORLD

Learning can widen your horizons in many ways. From the Himalayas to Swaziland, students share the incredible places education has taken them

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

When University of Melbourne student Oscar Morrison was granted a Global E3 Engineering Consortium exchange, he had more than 70 schools to choose from, but for him the choice was easy. "I chose to study in New York because I wanted to live somewhere different, very different," he says. "I was born in a tiny town in rural Victoria called Hamilton, and going to Melbourne was a big change in itself. New York was going to be the largest city that I could ever live in." While there, Adam explored the US, including a memorable road trip from San Francisco to Dallas in a 28-foot RV. New York University opened doors for Oscar. As well as winning a scholarship to attend The Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco, Oscar was

sent even further afield as a research assistant on a NYU project in Ghana for two weeks. "Studying abroad in another country and another culture is a very rare opportunity that should not be missed," Oscar says. "My exchange was the highlight of my years of schooling, and something I hope more people do." As soon as he graduated in Australia, Oscar was straight back to the US working as a software engineer at travel tech startup Wanderu.



Travelling gives students unique exposure to the global job market. Biannually Melbourne's Swinburne University offers Bachelor of Aviation students an intensive study tour, visiting airports, manufacturers and aviation hubs in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and America. On tour they might walk the Boeing factory floor, meet the diverse Dubai airport staff, or mingle with Chinese aviation students. Peter Bruce, deputy chair of Swinburne's Department of Aviation, has led six tours. "While our teaching at university is designed to cover a sound amount of theory and also draw upon industry experience from our staff and from sessional lecturers, nothing really beats exposing the students to their future workplace... and the challenges that are, and will be, presented in their ongoing employment," Peter says. "The students without exception are awestruck by the sheer size and complexity of the industry." He finds that students' eyes are opened to the breadth of employment open to them. "They start to appreciate the vast array of opportunities (often not considered) as they look beyond university." Peter's tour highlight? A spin on a now-retired Concorde jet in Seattle.

CULTURAL COLLISIONS

Two years ago, Charles Sturt University (CSU) student Anna Eggleton was a recipient of the Australian government's New Colombo Plan scholarship, designed to encourage students to study in the Asia Pacific region. Anna headed to Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan. "Japan was an obvious choice for me," Anna says. "I was really excited to learn a new language, and Japan's culture and history has always interested me. I had also always heard wonderful things about the people in Japan and their way of life, which went beyond my expectations." During her semester, Anna made close friends and travelled, visiting Tokyo, >>>



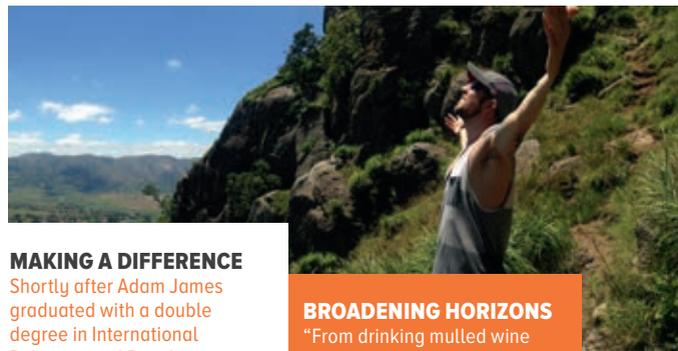
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Gaining a new perspective



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Anna Eggleton enjoys a Japanese winter, a Buddhist temple in Bhutan, Anita Suster in Denmark, Adam James in Swaziland, Robert Saxton in front of Paro Taktsang.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Shortly after Adam James graduated with a double degree in International Relations and Development Studies, he landed a job in a bank. The bank encouraged him to upskill, first with a Cert IV in Frontline Management and Cert IV in Training and Assessment, and then a Diploma of Management. While completing his diploma, Adam realised he'd never had the chance to use his degrees. So he applied for the government's Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program, and was offered an assignment as a staff trainer in Swaziland. "Not only could I utilise my development studies major to contextualise the experience and understand some of the big issues, I could use my work experience and my vocational study to do the job," he explains. "So I applied and the rest is history. I have been here for 11 months writing and implementing a training program for rural women artisans for a company called Gone Rural," says Adam. "At the same time, I'm upgrading my Diploma of Management certificate and working through my Diploma of Business with Fortress Learning." Gone Rural is a social enterprise empowering Swazi women.

BROADENING HORIZONS

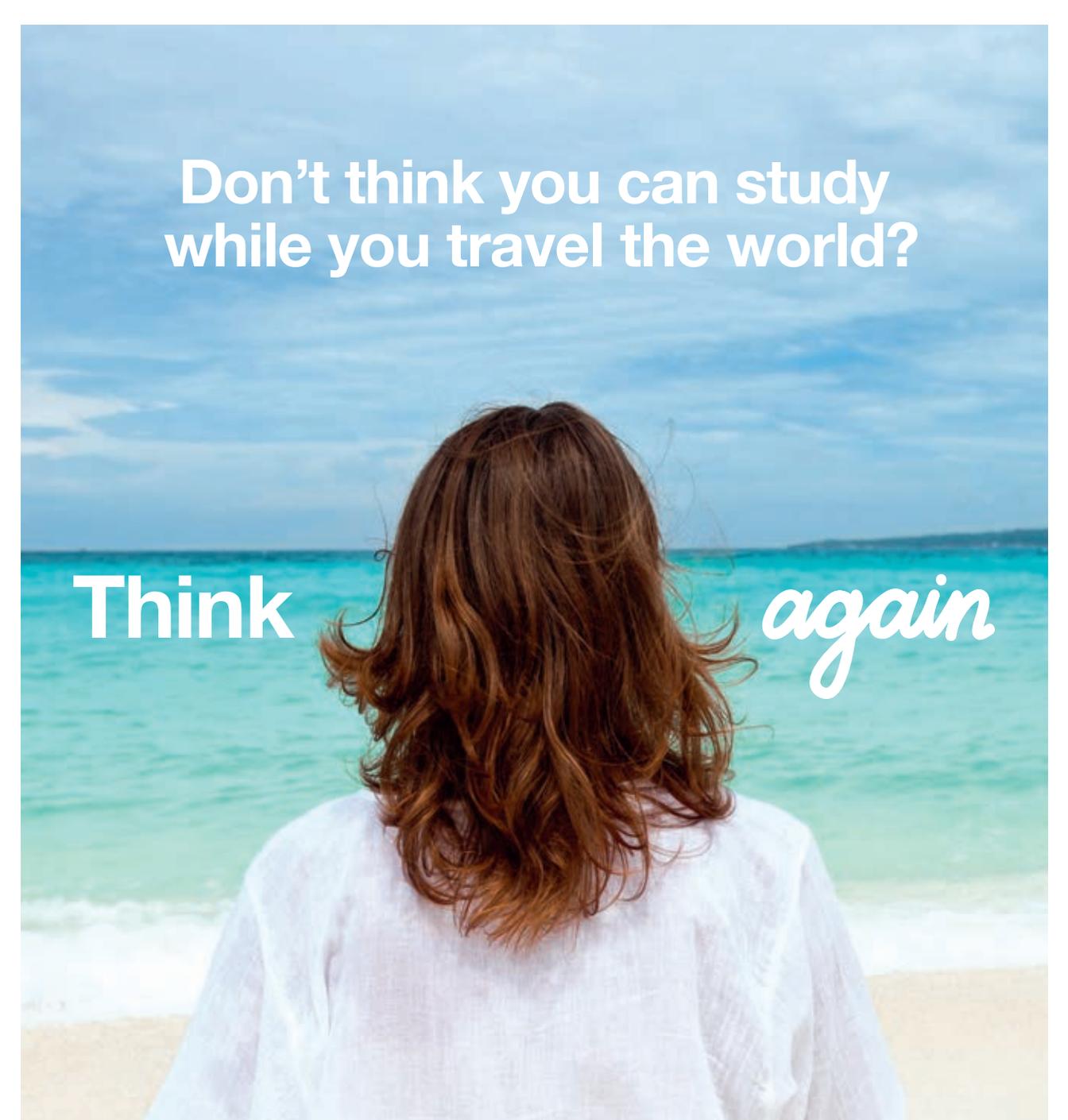
"From drinking mulled wine in Prague to exploring the nightlife of Berlin, to playing a game of soccer with a friend's family among the mountain tops of Norway, it's a challenge pinning down just one highlight from my time abroad," says Deakin University student Anita Suster. During her Bachelor of Arts, Anita went on exchange to Denmark's Aarhus School of Business and Social Sciences. "I wanted to immerse myself in a new culture and lifestyle in order to gain a fresh perspective on life, grow academically and most importantly, better understand myself and what I want from life," Anita says. During her stay, she got to test her event management skills (a career she hopes to pursue) by volunteering for NorthSide Festival, helping to prepare for the arrival of 30,000 music lovers. Anita believes the personal and professional contacts she made on exchange have broadened her ambitions, and urges others to grasp the opportunity. "Regardless of where you go, the experience is going to be revolutionary – pick a place, grab life by the hand and say yes!" ✈️

Kyoto, Mt Fuji, Kumamoto, Osaka, Nara and Hiroshima. "While in Japan I never once felt homesick as everyone was so welcoming to me," Anna says. "Studying abroad has given me a new outlook on life. I discovered things I didn't know about myself." After graduating, Anna hopes to use her CSU degree to aid conservation efforts, and explore environmental economics and issues. "I hope that by learning about other countries' environmental management I will gain a better understanding of how Australia can improve its conservation efforts," she says.

Last year, fellow CSU student Robert Saxton joined a study program, funded by the government's Asia Bound Scholarships, to the land of Gross National Happiness, Bhutan. "I'm studying a degree in Outdoor Recreation and Ecotourism so the trip's academic focus on sustainability and development was highly relevant," he says. As well as meeting

with regional authorities and interviewing locals, Robert had a brief family homestay. "To gain an appreciation of life within someone's home was a genuine privilege and opened my mind to the realisation that a view of people's lives from outside means very little." The Bhutanese people's positivity struck him. "I think we can learn a huge amount from Bhutan about the value of happiness and the importance of empowering local communities with the knowledge and responsibility to manage the natural environment themselves." He'd love to return to Bhutan one day, to give back.





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