

That Was Great! Where Next? "I am Looking for the Next Stamp in my Passport" Says Taylor's Exchange Student to RMIT in Australia

Bachelor of Science (Hons) Food Science with Nutrition student spent a semester on exchange at RMIT, and had experiences that have changed his world view.



What a view : Zachary Sean Sia with friends in Australia

"Studying abroad had always been a dream of mine" said Zachary Sean Sia before he headed off to study at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia. "I have always lived with the luxury of having my family around me to prepare food, take care of my laundry and keep our house clean while I concentrated on academic matters". Upon arriving in Melbourne, "I suddenly found myself in an empty room with nothing but furniture and basic appliances. I didn't even have any groceries I could prepare food with! It was a brand-new experience creating a routine that involved preparing food, doing my laundry, completing assignments, attending classes and going to work in a restaurant whilst also maintaining a social life". As he said, "After all, I had many places to see and things to do. In the end, it boiled down to excellent time management to fit in all my activities such as road trips with my friends and the occasional night out. Living on one's own will teach you to make decisions that are necessary and to hold yourself accountable when nobody else is there to do it for you". Reflecting on his time in Australia, he said that, "If I had a mundane lifestyle before I had been to Melbourne, I now look at everyday as an opportunity to do something exciting, as the day may come when I have to leave wherever I am. When the time comes to leave; it is an opportunity to do something new, meet new people and see new places. When I arrived in Melbourne, I thought it was an amazing place to live in. Friendly people, beautiful sights and exciting adventures. Halfway through, I thought I

felt I could live there forever. But having left, the world looks even bigger than it did before, there are so many more cities to live in and people to meet. The world is a massive place, and there is so much to learn from each corner of it. Now I'm looking forward to a new experience and another new stamp in my passport" - (Global Matters 2018)