

Graduate Speech – 14th May 2018

Chancellor, Acting Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. It is an absolute honour to speak on behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today.

We came to Federation University from diverse backgrounds, with myriad different goals & motivations. To have reached this point of celebration today is a testament to the support, encouragement and belief we have experienced during our time here, and impels me, on your behalf, to say thank you.

To our fellow students, for all the study sessions, stress relieving debriefs, frantic night before texts, shared knowledge & experience, and the new friendships we have formed and will take with us as we move forward, thank you.

To lecturers, supervisors, tutors & mentors, who shared their love of learning & expertise to help develop and broaden our minds, who challenged us not to settle, but to excel. You spent countless unseen hours preparing work, and numerous evenings & weekends marking, giving us feedback and providing engaging out of class experiences to enhance our learning. For everything you have done for us, thank you.

To our families & friends who supported us taking on this new challenge, who celebrated our highs and supported us in our lows, who listened as we stressed & revised & complained and who unavoidably now have become experts in a whole range of topics without ever enrolling in a course, thank you.

Now, to my fellow graduates. We are here to celebrate today because we have met and overcome challenges, we've made sacrifices, we've adjusted and adapted our lives all so that we could achieve what sometimes may have seemed an unattainable goal. So, as we go on into the next phase of our lives knowing there are more challenges ahead, know that we did this, we are equipped and ready, and we can rise to the occasion, whatever that occasion may be.

Good luck and congratulations to us all!