

## Emily Cordy's Graduate Address

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to whole heartedly thank-you for attending not only today's ceremony, but also the support you have given the Alumni through their University journey and the support that you will continue to provide in the days, months and years to come.

No two university experiences are the same. As we have been fortunate enough to observe, Federation University graduates span across a tremendous range of disciplines. Graduates who have journeyed from other countries to Australia and completed their studies when English is a second language. Graduates who have embraced opportunities to study abroad, or those who have made the simple yet terrifying move out of home to pursue their dreams.

The journey of living out our hopes and dreams does not cease in this room. Rather, it begins. As individuals and as a collective, today we take the next step. I encourage each and every one of you to, make use of the transcripts you have received today, and utilise them to follow your passions and chase after your dreams. Let these degrees represent that fact that you can and will succeed. Regardless of how daunting it may seem, opportunity awaits for those who would seize it with both hands and run.

Today we are celebrating not only the end of a journey for each graduate, but also the beginning of an even greater expedition into the rest of our lives, and living out our dreams. I would like to thank Federation University Australia for giving me the honour of speaking on behalf of the graduates today, and for giving the graduates an institution to pursue knowledge.

To the graduates here today, I'd like to leave you with wise words from Dr Seuss; "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go"

I would like to thank you all for witnessing today's Graduation ceremony, and I ask you to join me in congratulating each and every graduate on receiving their transcripts today, and for the triumphs that are sure to follow.