

## Graduate Speech – Chris Quain

Faculty of Health

3.30pm, Tuesday 5 May, 2015

Chancellor, Vice-chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today, I wanted to take a brief moment to reflect on the last few years. All of us have had our own unique experiences along the way. The graduates in the room have studied a variety of fields and some of us here today have studied in other parts of the country. There's even a few of us here who have studied overseas. But I think most of you will be able to relate to what I have to say.

That was a big three years! I think I always knew I'd be able to do it, but there are a few people in this room who can tell you that there were moments when it could have gone either way. It certainly wasn't easy and I know we all look at other people we studied with and think "wow, they've really got their stuff together", but let me tell you that no one cruises through a degree and no one does it alone. Something about going through a significant experience with people and being part of something bigger than myself....

Lastly, I wanted to say that the nursing degree I have just completed is the first qualification I've ever had. I'm 34 and have had a bunch of different jobs, started and not finished a few things etc, etc. There are lots of options in life. Plenty of things that you could do, should do or might do, but this is something that we *did* do. I think

