



Kara-Lee Hunt – Undergraduate Student

Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws

August 2016

1. Why did you choose your degree programme, and what made you enrol at the University of Otago?

I chose a Bachelor Degree in Commerce with a Major in Accounting because I instantly took an interest to this topic in high school. My choice to undertake a Bachelor of Laws stemmed from my interest in the profession I experienced through family friends. I chose to study in Otago because I felt they had the best Law faculty in NZ.

2. What have you enjoyed most about your academic journey thus far?

One of the most enjoyable parts of my journey has been seeing how far I can push myself. University is not an easy walk in the park, it is challenging, but that just made getting through it and accomplishing my goals far more rewarding.

3. So far during your studies what key relationships have mattered the most? What key sources of support have you encountered at the University of Otago?

Firstly, relationships with your lecturers are essential. This does not mean becoming their best friends, but it is important to be able to easily and confidently approach your lecturers because they are the ones who will assist you the most in your courses.

The Pacific Centre and the Maori Centre both provided amazing support throughout my studies. They were especially important in my first year with the extra tutorials they provided for my papers. On top of providing academic support, the staff were extremely welcoming and helped with any other problems I had. The centre also provided a place to meet new people, which was especially important for students new to Dunedin like myself.

4. What are some of your career and/or academic goals and aspirations?

My main goal at the moment, academic and career wise is to graduate at the end of this year, find a job and gain some all-important experience. As to my long-term goals, I am not 100% sure what they are yet. I did have a set path to just specialise in accounting, but my past papers have resulted in my further interest in legal areas such as labour or tax law. Only one goal has remained the same, to have my own firm and be my own boss sometime in the future, but whether this will be an accounting or law firm is still up in the air.

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5. What advice would you give to new students?

The best advice I could give to new students is, do not be afraid to fail. To truly succeed in your university journey you have to be unafraid to try. Everyone has their bad days, there are going to be times where you didn't get the result you wanted or you were wrong, but never let these moments bring you down. It is better to learn from your mistakes, rather than cry over something you cannot change.

Secondly, just be yourself and have fun. University seems like a huge and scary place, but it really isn't. In this rich and diverse environment it is easy to make friends and become comfortable in your new home. Get out there and experience what Dunedin has to offer. Everyone thinks university is all about the academic journey, but it isn't, you cannot study 24/7. University is really all about balance, balancing your university workload, exercise, your social life. It does seem daunting but just remember that these years will create some of the most long-lasting memories of your life, you just have to go out there and experience them.

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