



Sebastian Tasi – Graduated in 2014 - Alumni Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Commerce Completed Foundation Year in 2010

1. How did the Foundation Year prepare you for further study at University?

Foundation year provided a concrete platform so that I could launch into the university lifestyle with ease. When I started my first year of University, I was already accustomed to the facilities, lifestyle and structure of Otago. It made my university life that much easier.

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

Since high school, I've wanted to do communication as my degree. Throughout my first year I took marketing as an interest paper. I was intrigued by it and I eventually took it up as another major. I chose Otago because of the support it has for students, it is the best decision I've ever made.

3. What did you enjoy most about your academic journey?

The lifestyle. I enjoyed being independent and learning how to balance my social and academic life. Also the support for students. The ability to have one on one time with our lecturers and also have extra tutorials available made my University journey enjoyable.

4. During your studies what key relationships mattered the most? What key sources of support did you encounter at the University of Otago?

The Pacific Island Centre - the level of encouragement and support from that tiny yellow building on the corner of Leithbank Street is beyond. Not only did they help academically by providing extra tutorials, but they also helped build character. Being involved in their academic volunteer programs to local schools and Pacific on Campus Experience (POCE) programmes allowed me to understand my academic strength and weakness, as well as providing a source of motivation during hard times.

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

I've found a great interest in creative advertising. My career goal is to end up in New York and work for B-reel agency and eventually start my own. For now, I am working in an Australian advertising agency to gain insights and experience.

6. What advice would you give to new students?

"Utilise it" is the advice I would give a new student. There is so much support in Foundation Year and at the University of Otago. Utilise all the support given to you during your studies, it makes for a smoother journey. Otago does look after you, so make the most of it.

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