

Michael

Hi my name is Michael I'm a graduate of Griffith's Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Applied Linguistics.

I decided to study Languages and Applied Linguistics because at school I was good at languages and I was interested in them and I wanted to continue studying them at university to a higher level. I wanted to study applied linguistics because I wanted to see how my language knowledge could be practically applied either to teaching or translation or indeed to media studies which is the area that I ended up focusing on in my honours year.

During the Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Applied Linguistics I studied Japanese which I continued on from school. I also studied Chinese which I started as a beginner here at Griffith and I now have a good spoken and written proficiency. Chinese was my major which means that I studied it for three years and I also majored in linguistics which is a very diverse field covering all sorts of aspects of human language, including how they learnt and how they best taught, differences between males and females, grammar and structure and even languages as used by the media. My time at Griffith was a really great experience. The program I did was full of really interesting and practical content. The lecturers were really good at making the lectures interesting and there was a lot of encouragement of your own personal view points and opinions. I am always going to have good memories of the friends I made.

Honours is an extra year of study where you write a short thesis on an area you are particularly interested in. I had two supervisors who helped me throughout as well. My topic was on language in the media and I looked at how Australia was presented in the Singaporean press during the time they were reporting up to and after the execution of drug trafficker Van Nuen.

When I completed the degree I was offered a position at the Immigration Department in their graduate recruitment program and I'll have the opportunity to work overseas with them in the near future. The best thing about the Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Applied Linguistics is not only the great language skills you can acquire, which are always an asset, but also because I was able to learn how to research and critically analyse aspects of this and other societies and see that things are not always as they seem.