

Michael - Honours

Hi, I'm Michael and I'm a graduate of the Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Applied Linguistics at Griffith and I did a major in Mandarin Chinese. I chose Griffith because I knew it had a good focus on the Asian region and of practical skills and a modern focus.

So after my BA I started an honours degree in Applied Linguistics. In the thesis I looked at how Australia was presented in the Singaporean press in the Straits Times during the reporting of the execution of Australian citizen Van Nuen. I analysed the news text through a new area of applied linguistics called critical discourse analysis. That was a particularly interesting area because it allowed me to combine my knowledge of linguistics with Asian studies and political studies and so forth. My findings were basically that reporting on the issue became a commentary on Australia and its values. It was interesting to see how the issue was turned into an issue of Singaporean sovereignty.

I decided to do honours because I knew it would increase my employability but mainly because it allowed me to focus on an area of interest to me in great depth and detail and it allowed me to contribute to the knowledge in the area myself. I knew from the BA that the lecturers were very helpful and knowledgeable and during the honours year I found my supervisors to be very, very supportive, they were very knowledgeable in the area and they were interested in new innovations in the area and in research that was topical and important.

After finishing honours I accepted a position at the Immigration Department in Canberra in their graduate recruitment program. I have the prospect of working overseas in the near future. The skills I gained during my honours year will be very helpful to me in that position because I gained great research skills, critical thinking and I was able to learn Mandarin Chinese.