

November 2011 Oxford and Cambridge Trip Reflections

“The opportunity to visit Oxford University and Cambridge University was invaluable...”

“The trip was simply amazing. The opportunity to expand my horizons and imagine myself as a student in such a prestigious environment was truly remarkable.”

Corrinne Franklin, Macquarie University

“I had no idea that the trip to Cambridge and Oxford would have such a profound impact on my education and, potentially, the trajectory of my life.... Prior to visiting England, I hadn't really considered studying overseas.... [T]his experience, as my first trip overseas, has got me thinking more about international opportunities and has kindled in me a passion for overseas travel.”

Michael Bryden, Monash University



Left to right: Michael Bryden (Monash); Krystal Lockwood (Griffith); Kerrie Doyle (Perkins Scholarship applicant); Jennifer-Leigh Campbell (Griffith); Letitia Campbell (Griffith); Lilly Brown (Melbourne); Claire O'Moore (Aurora Project); Corrinne Franklin (Macquarie); Sarah Bourke (ANU); Aurora Milroy (UWA); Kyle Turner (Perkins Scholarship applicant); Tracey Cooper (Victoria Uni); Naurelle Saunders (Griffith); Richard Potok (Aurora Project and Charlie Perkins Trust); Celeste Liddle (Perkins Scholarship applicant); Lauren Gower (UTas); Rebecca Richards (Australia's first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar)

“I found the trip to the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge to be an amazing and invaluable experience.”

Sarah Bourke, Australian National University

“[T]he experience itself was amazing! I remember walking down a little cobbled-stone street in Cambridge on a beautiful clear day with one of the other students in search of our accommodation for the night. As we turned the corner we were both awestruck by King’s College as it was illuminated by the sun. The porters must have thought we were losing our minds as we did a little crazy dance in the lobby at the realisation that this magnificent place was our lodging for the evening.”

Lilly Brown, University of Melbourne

“[I] owe a big thank you to the funders and the Trust for showing me the path to my future and also for recognising my hard work. I am a mother of three and a kinship carer of three and find study difficult to make a priority and engage in. It was great to be recognised for all the hard work I had done in the last three years to complete two degrees.”

Tracey Cooper, Victoria University

“It was more than I could ever have imagined being in the company of some of those great people – Rhodes House, the colleges, the students and academics that were so willing to give up their time and talents to make our time there so productive.”

Kerrie Doyle, University of Canberra and Australian National University

“[I] had never considered the possibility of undertaking postgraduate studies overseas, let alone at Oxford or Cambridge, which are both considered among the most prestigious universities in the world. The financial obligation, distance and prestige tended to instil a feeling of unattainability in attending such a university. I was utterly speechless when I was informed that I was accepted to be a part of the visit and was excited at the possibility of exploring the opportunity to one day study at one of these universities.... The visit to the United Kingdom was an incredible experience. I had never been to the United Kingdom, so everything about the trip was novel and exciting. The schedule for our visit was intense, but gave us an insight into the universities that would not have been possible unless we were actually involved in an opportunity like our recent visit. The meetings with wardens, academics, current students and university representatives gave the visiting students a greater depth of understanding into the way of life at the universities, which was insightful and informative.”

Krystal Lockwood, Griffith University

“The chance to interact with philosophy students and academics at such an elevated level, even for a short time, was overwhelmingly beneficial to me.”

Lauren Gower, University of Tasmania



“Getting the opportunity to visit Oxford and Cambridge universities has made me determined to apply for postgraduate study at Oxford upon completion of my degree in Australia... Speaking to students and staff members also helped to clarify the postgraduate pathway that would best suit me.”

Aurora Milroy, University of Western Australia

“[I] had not expected such a surge of personal growth in such a short time. I feel as though I have gained much more than a week’s experience. I will forever be grateful to the Trust and the funders for generously sponsoring me to go.”

Kerrie Doyle, University of Canberra and Australian National University

“I wish to thank the Charlie Perkins Scholarship Trust as well as the sponsors, for giving me this amazing and inspiring opportunity. I gained more out of the experience than I could have anticipated, and regardless of whether my application to these institutions and the scholarship is ultimately successful, it has given me further encouragement to seek out my academic dreams. I will be forever grateful for... this opportunity.”

Celeste Liddle, National Tertiary Education Union and University of Melbourne

“The opportunity to visit Oxford University and Cambridge University was invaluable. Meeting academics and administrative staff clarified the requirements needed for entry and provided insight into the demands and rewards of the programs on offer at each university.”

Naurelle Saunders, Griffith University



Left to right: Christian Thompson (inaugural Charlie Perkins Scholar); Krystal Lockwood (Griffith); Tracey Cooper (Victoria Uni); Naurelle Saunders (Griffith); Michael Bryden (Monash); Jennifer-Leigh Campbell (Griffith); Letitia Campbell (Griffith); Corrinne Franklin (Macquarie)

“A community was created...”

“[I] would like to note the inspiration I gained from my fellow students who embodied such a collective wealth of passion in the things they believe in and aspirations in relation to their chosen paths. I found it really encouraging to be able to engage with the other Indigenous students in that environment and hear about their individual stories. I feel that over that week a community was created and I am sure I will draw upon it in the future for advice and support.”

Lilly Brown, University of Melbourne

“The trip was also a fantastic opportunity to meet with other possible applicants from Australia and current students at the two universities and be inspired by their journeys and achievements.”

Jennifer-Leigh Campbell, Griffith University

“Experiencing it with like-minded peers added a value to the trip that cannot be overestimated.”

Corrinne Franklin, Macquarie University

“[T]o be able to share the experience with other high achieving Indigenous students was inspiring and greatly augmented the experience.”

Krystal Lockwood, Griffith University

“[It] was wonderful to be able to share this experience with other Aboriginal students who are striving academically. Getting to know the other students on the trip, and discussing our academic ambitions was one of the most rewarding aspects of my week at Oxford and Cambridge.”

Aurora Milroy, University of Western Australia

“A world of possibilities...”

“The UK visit...opened my eyes to the possibility of international study and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity.”

Kyle Turner, Queensland Health

“Before I went on the trip, nobody had ever said to me: ‘You are smart enough to study at Oxford’. Now, I know that I can make a competitive application to any of the top universities in the world. I now recognise that such universities are not simply alternate worlds – places for the elite – but this-worldly places where I can study and participate and contribute; places where I would not be out of place.”

Lauren Gower, University of Tasmania

“The visit assisted me in clarifying what my postgraduate options are and the steps I should take to be in the best position when I do apply.... I now deeply aspire to attend either Oxford or Cambridge to further my education.”

Krystal Lockwood, Griffith University

“Even after finding out about the scholarship program, my first reaction was, ‘I could never go to Oxford’. It is thoughts like this that often stop students like me from pursuing their dreams. The trip to the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in November 2011 has now replaced this thought completely with aspirations for the future. I now realise that study at Oxford or Cambridge is possible and I am in the process of applying for the scholarship.”

Jennifer-Leigh Campbell, Griffith University

“I have been considering postgraduate options at these institutions for some time, but the chance to visit these places and to meet with academics has crystallised my goals. I plan to apply for the MPhil in Medical Anthropology at Oxford, to start in 2013, with the view to transferring into a DPhil in this field.... Meeting in-person with the course coordinator and a Rhodes Scholar who is currently undertaking the course was what cemented my decision to apply for this course in the future, and I look forward to the challenges that undertaking this study at Oxford will bring.”

Sarah Bourke, Australian National University

“Previously, I would never have thought it possible to study at Oxford or Cambridge, so I never would have considered it before I was made aware of the Charlie Perkins Scholarships. Even then, I never thought I would be eligible or accepted at such a prestigious university. However, the visit overseas, for me, has broken down some barriers for me and removed the assumption that limitations would prevent me from studying at a postgraduate level.”

Letitia Campbell, Griffith University

“[B]eing part of this trip opened my eyes to the many possibilities that could be in my future. I wasn’t looking at postgraduate studies prior to submitting the application to go to Oxford, let alone looking at studying overseas. I thought it was way out of my reach and I didn’t realise I had what it takes to be able to go on to further study. Now I’m proud to say, one way or another, I intend to go on to further study after I finish my second degree, which will be mid-2012.”

Tracey Cooper, Victoria University

“Thank you... for allowing me to partake in this extraordinary opportunity to imagine something different for myself.... After going I know to never limit my boundaries; the world is now my oyster!”

Corrinne Franklin, Macquarie University

“I have dreamt for some time of attending one of these renowned universities, but believed that being accepted was beyond my reach.... This trip helped me feel less intimidated about moving overseas, as we were able to explore the universities, and speak to other students who had left Australia to study in the UK. It also made me feel more confident in my ability to be accepted into Oxford.”

Aurora Milroy, University of Western Australia

“[A] firsthand experience of life at Oxford and Cambridge allowed me to realise studying at one of these prestigious universities is not necessarily an unattainable dream.”

Naurelle Saunders, Griffith University

“[T]he trip to Oxford and Cambridge has significantly affected the expectations I had for myself in relation to my intended study and career path. I had never even conceived the possibility of attending prestigious educational institutions such as Oxford or Cambridge, particularly because where I grew up such an idea is so far removed from lived reality. I feel that this experience has allowed me to see, literally, a world of possibilities before me.”

Lilly Brown, University of Melbourne

“To go to an illustrious and esteemed institution has always been a dream that I was too scared to imagine. I wanted it – I always wanted it – and now I know I can have it. I can make it real, and it is a marked possibility for me now. I will no longer say ‘dare to dream’; now it will be ‘dare to do’!”

Corrinne Franklin, Macquarie University

