

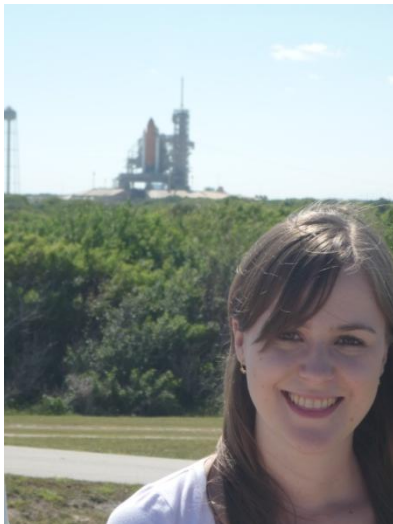
In the fall semester of 2010 I completed the third year of my Bachelor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Purdue University in the United States of America.

The amazing university of Purdue is at the centre of a small town in Indiana. Because of this, I was able to experience a unique side to America that is not often portrayed in the media and a lifestyle that is vastly different to Australia. One weekend I went to one of the many corn fields in the surrounding area and got lost in a large themed maze, and celebrated the American tradition of Halloween by going on a Haunted Barn Ride on the back of a tractor.

Academically, Purdue has a very strong engineering department. The majority of my subjects had much smaller classes than UQ, with only one of my lectures having more than 30 people in it. The range of subjects I could choose from was astounding; with my particular favourite being a senior design class entitled Spacecraft Design. Other subjects such as Wine Tasting, The History of Rock and Roll and Flower Arranging were also available.

My exchange exposed me to the world of opportunity that exists within the United States, particularly in my field of interest - aerospace engineering. I travelled to Florida to the NASA Kennedy Space Centre and saw one of the final space shuttles on the launch pad and participated in an Astronaut Training Experience. I also went to California to see the labs at NASA Ames Research Centre. In addition to this I had time to explore New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, and visited the universities of Stanford and Berkeley.

I had a fantastic time on exchange, and would not change any second of it. Once I graduate, I cannot wait to explore the opportunities to undertake further study and employment overseas, and I cannot encourage others enough to go on exchange and explore the world while completing your degree, and most importantly changing your life.



At Kennedy Space Centre with the space shuttle Discovery on the launch pad



My very first carved pumpkin for Halloween