

International fieldwork placement for final year Social Work student

A final year social work student at La Trobe's Albury-Wodonga Campus is heading off to Ireland to complete her study. Rachel Habgood leaves for Dublin on Sunday to undertake her final 14 week field placement in a leading child protection agency.

Rachel is the third student from Wodonga to take up a placement facilitated by an agreement between La Trobe's School of Social Work and Trinity College Dublin. Professor Robbie Gilligan, Head of Social Work at Trinity College, visited the Wodonga campus last month to meet with Rachel and finalise details of the placement.

While in Dublin, Rachel's field placement will be supervised by an academic from Trinity College. She will attend seminars on campus with her Irish peers, linking her placement learning and earlier classroom-based study. The field placement will involve Rachel in an innovative program for teenage clients of the child protection system whose foster care arrangements have broken down. The program aims to build social networks and resilience as these young people move toward adulthood.

Dr Guinever Threlkeld, Director of Health Sciences at La Trobe Albury-Wodonga commented. 'For social work students, field placements provide the opportunity to integrate the theory and skills learnt in campus-based classes in the workplace under the supervision of an experienced social worker. This ensures students are well equipped for the realities of social work practice when they graduate. A range of opportunities exist for students to undertake one of their placements overseas. This adds both depth and breadth to students' learning and enables students to contribute ideas drawn from international practice to local agencies when they return to work in the region.'

For more information, please contact:

Dr Guinever Threlkeld
Director,
Faculty of Health Sciences Albury-Wodonga and
Deputy Head,
School of Social Work and Social Policy
La Trobe University
PO Box 821
WODONGA
VIC 3689

PH: 02 60 24 9810
FAX: 02 60 24 9816

EMAIL: g.threlkeld@latrobe.edu.au