

What has it been like for Bronte Barber in the past 4 years??

Study Wise;

I have ended up at the University of Canterbury till this day.

In 2015, I completed the 'CUP' course at UC which gave me a 'Certificate in University Preparation' towards a bachelor of teaching, as I didn't have University Entrance (completed RYE instead of year 13). In 2016 I started the Criminal Justice Degree, but that ended quickly as I soon found it was not what I wanted to complete although being a lover for Criminal Minds and Criminal Dramas, and that I wanted to go into teaching.



However I couldn't transfer any credits into the teaching degree, and I still had to complete my law paper, so I was part time at university and part time working at the French Bakery. In 2017, I finally started my Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) and I am currently half way through my second year (only 1 year left :D)! It has been amazing and I have not questioned it at all. I am currently on my second placement, which has been an interesting experience so far. My first placement I was at Somerfield Primary with the Year 0's (age 5) and now I am at Kirkwood Intermediate with the Year 7's (age 11/12), which has been a huge jump in the learning experiences, but it has been good to see the students at each end of the scale.

It has definitely been an interesting experience within this degree, as it is strongly focused on Maori competencies and how it can all be incorporated into their lesson plans etc. Alongside a colleague of mine, we started up the Education Society at UC, which focuses on giving Teaching students a club to belong to, however it is not a restricted club and any student can join. I am happy to say that I am the president of the Education Society and that we thankfully have Rotary to help as our main sponsor for the year, giving us a boost and supporting our society. We have managed to successfully hold three events for our members this year and were able to provide T-Shirts thanks to your donations.

Travel Wise;

2015, I went back to Lerum, Sweden to graduate and go to prom with my class and I also did some travelling with a couple of friends I made on exchange. It was amazing to see how the high school graduation process took place and to actually be apart of with the class.

2016, I had a friend from my class in Sweden come and stay with me while she travelled, it was really cool getting to show her my city and some locations around the South Island.

Finally, in 2018 I went to Europe and of course spent a week in Sweden again and saw all my friends. It was amazing getting to stay with my host family again and just being able to reconnect in person, it felt like months since I had been back.

I have also been fortunate to see the Australian exchange student, Adam, that was in Lerum with me almost every year since being back in New Zealand, which for me has just made the exchange community that extra special.

Work Wise;

Every year I end up working at the French Bakery, however in 2016 I spread my wings at found myself at Coffee Culture, although that did not last long due to personal differences. In 2017, I used my Swedish connections and applied for a job at the new H&M store opening in Christchurch. I stayed there for about 7 months, until they realised they had far too much staff and couldn't give me more hours, so in my best interest, I decided to leave and go back to working at the French Bakery in the office, during my free time from study.

I hope that answers your question, and it's great to hear from Rotary.

Warm regards,
Bronte Barber