



Rachel Chan | Scholarship Recipient

Hi Judy,

It's hard to believe that 2018 is almost over! It seems not too long ago that I was still living in Cairns and had only just finished high school. Now, I have completed my first year of university and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Brisbane.

My first year of university has been a year full of new experiences. Studying a Bachelor of Science (Extended Major in Biomedical Science) at the University of Queensland has been hard work but rewarding to say the very least. The courses that I studied this year have provided the basic building blocks for me to progress into biomedical science, and later, medicine.

The Ken & Erica Harris Testimonial Fund has helped me immensely in the transition from Cairns to Brisbane this year. It has always been my dream to study at UQ, and this year has been nothing short of exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling. However, there have also been a few challenges in the process of moving away from home and relocating to Brisbane. This is the first time that I have been independent and moving to a new city and worrying about the costs of university textbooks, stationery, accommodation and other living expenses can be a financial burden. However, with the help of your fund, I was able to purchase a new laptop for my studies and put the money towards my accommodation. Without this scholarship, my transition to university life in Brisbane certainly would not have been so easy and convenient.

In addition, this award has also allowed me to pursue other academic and extra-curricular opportunities – during the semester break this year, I was selected to participate in the UQ Winter Research Program. This four-week intensive program opened my eyes to the job of a researcher, spending many hours at the laboratory learning new techniques and experiments. It was an incredible opportunity and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

Next year, I am hoping to go on exchange in Semester 2 and experience university life in Hong Kong. The opportunity to go overseas and gain a whole new understanding of a different culture excites me, and this experience will enable me to improve my language skills and test my ability to adapt and communicate in diverse environments.

Thank you once again for your generous support. I am so very grateful to have been the recipient of the Ken & Erica Harris Testimonial Fund this year, which has helped immensely with university costs. Thank you very much to all the members of the Far North Queensland Youth Assistance Fund Committee for your continued support in helping graduating and tertiary students in our local community.

Regards,

Rachel Chan