

## **Our stories transcript**

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): The night before I left Malaysia, for Australia me and my friends, gather around, celebrate for my farewell party.

I still remember that I actually felt very, very sad because I had to leave them.

NINA: Quite hard from kind of, the farewell party with all your friends coming here and starting anew.

MRIDUL: When you're moving first time overseas you don't know anyone so it's kind of scary

MING LI (RICHARD): I am a little bit scared to be honest but still it's kind of exciting, I'm totally thrilled because I'm going to explore a whole new world.

When I was a little boy, I thought I would like to be an Astronaut you know, exploring all the unknown space.

MRIDUL: I used to tell my mum I want to be a pilot. I am looking forward to being an accountant now.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (Stephanie): I am studying under marketing and international trade under Victoria University.

NINA: In five years I am hopefully still in Australia, working for a small tour operator.

MING LI (RICHARD): The uni actually provides a program called English improving program, and it really helps.

I have got a part-time job in 7-Eleven, sometimes you feel insecure, because you don't understand each other.

I reckon I am getting better and better all the time, as long as I keep talking you know. It's not any more like, a problem at all.

NINA: Before I came to Australia I was a bit worried about finding a place to live, but VU explained to us how to find accommodation and how to deal with landlords.

That's my room, that's the living room, that's the kitchen and that's how students live.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): My campus is really, really big. It makes me feel comfortable to study there.

MRIDUL: The great thing about Victoria University is there is heaps of courses to choose from.

NINA: It's close to the city and public transport makes it easy.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): They have international student offices catered especially for international students. Whenever I need help, I always go to them.

MRIDUL: International Student Support Offices provide us with all the information before we leave our own country, they help us in settling in and even in orientation.

They are very approachable, and very friendly, and they help you with anything you need.

MING LI (RICHARD): There's a Chinese mentor program helping students who is coming from China, to adjust their social lives in Australia.

NINA: My social life now, is comparable to the one in Germany that I know quite a big circle of friends.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): Friends is most important, working and shopping and watching movies.

MRIDUL: I am planning to go for India vs Australia cricket, match with my mates. It's good to have a good time with my friends and my mates in Melbourne City. I love it here.

Exams are approaching, and I'm really tense at the moment and studying pretty hard.

Just looking forward to it and want to give my best shot.

MING LI (RICHARD): The lecturers and the tutors are absolutely helpful, I can visit their office.

Once I send them an email about the concerns, they reply instantly.

NINA: I am a bit nervous about it, I hope I did enough studying.

MING LI (RICHARD): It is very important for me to pass all the exams, because I am not only doing all this stuff for me but, for my parents back in China.

Luckily we all passed.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): My exams is good, it was really, really tough, but I managed to go through it.

MRIDUL: It's all fun times with all my mates, everyone there, blast time.

NINA: Now I can start my work placement which Victoria University organised for me. Which is at a small tour operator. Well that's probably one of the reasons I chose to go to VU and study here.

MING LI (RICHARD): I am the only child in my family, so maybe I was a little bit spoiled I reckon.

Sometimes I do miss my family, but I became more independent.

TAN ZHAO CHIN (STEPHANIE): I am packing bag to go back to my country. If I didn't come to Australia to study I wouldn't experience how life different between one country to another country.

MRIDUL: I am working for myself, I am working for my future.

MRIDUL'S FRIEND: He's doing pretty good actually according to a few students to come so, oh and he is a smart boy, not a good boy but he's a very smart boy [laughter].

NINA: I have made friends here I will have for the rest of my life.

MING LI (RICHARD): I could have gone to many other uni's but I choose Victoria Uni. You will just feel completely different and it's kind of fantastic.

People were born with special gifts and it's just a matter of time, you can explore how many potentials you have.