

# Kate Robinson

## Bachelor of Nursing, RMIT



### Senior school subjects:

- **Year 11:** English, French, Specialist Mathematics, Psychology, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Advancement, Chemistry
- **Year 12:** English, Mathematical Methods, Sociology, Chemistry

**What motivated you to choose these subjects?** Initially I chose subjects because it's what I needed for prerequisites, as at the start of my senior school journey I wanted to study medicine. I also made sure I had some subjects I knew I would enjoy to "break up" the heavier subjects. So I chose things like Food Technology, Psychology and Sociology as these areas really interested me. These subjects also helped me to realise I would be better suited to the nursing profession rather than medicine!

I have always been good at Mathematics so I did the more advanced stream to continue to challenge myself as well as it being a prerequisite subject. I tried to stick with French for as long as I could, as I have always wanted to learn a second language. I thought it would be a good skill to have going into the medical field, and it also scores well for the ATAR.

### What resources did you use to pick subjects?

University websites first and foremost as there is no point having an idea of what you want to do to after school to find out you haven't completed the correct subjects to gain entry into the desired course. My parents had a large influence on my decision making process as they encouraged me to reach my full potential and continue to challenge myself academically. My teachers also had a large influence. I remember going to a parent teacher interview prior to entering senior school and being very unsure before it but confident in my decisions afterwards.

**What was your course like?** My course was fantastic. I chose RMIT over some of the other Melbourne based universities as I felt they offered the most in depth subjects

and the most variety in electives. The course itself comprised of lectures, compulsory practical classes in biology and nursing skills and a total of 800 hours clinical placement within metropolitan Melbourne.

**What were some of the best parts of your course?** The best parts of my course were clinical placements. This was the main reason I moved to Melbourne to study nursing rather than stay local as I felt I got to experience more acute and diverse cases and patients. The other part I enjoyed the most was RMIT's "sim-man" which is a fully interactive dummy, which we would use in mock emergency scenarios. This was extremely helpful when going into the workforce and in a real emergency situation.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course?** All the subjects I chose helped me in my course. They provided a basic understanding, which once at Uni I was able to build upon or continue to learn but in a more nursing-specific direction.

**What are you doing now in your graduate position?** I am currently a Grade 2 Registered Nurse on the haematology/medical oncology and bone marrow transplant wards at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** I enjoy continuing to learn about blood cancers and disorders as the Royal Melbourne receives patients from all over Victoria and Tasmania who have been diagnosed with rare or very aggressive diseases. I like that there are a lot of opportunities for further education and to progress into more senior roles and/or positions and that this is encouraged.

I enjoy the continuity of care and getting to know patients and their families and support them through what is often the hardest time of their lives. I also enjoy getting to work with some amazing people in the nursing, medical and allied health teams. Cancer treatment unfortunately doesn't always work but having a great support system in my colleagues makes it easier!