I am a distance student taking Forensic Biotechnology through CSU Wagga. I arrived in Canada on 10 January 2010 and will be on exchange for the winter and fall sessions of 2010 at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. I am taking subjects from the science and forensic areas at Trent University to obtain credit towards my CSU degree. The Trent subjects include protein chemistry, biotechnology and public policy, immunology, research design, forensic entomology, laboratory DNA and forensics, and crime scene investigation. The forensic subjects have only been offered in recent years at Trent University.

Taking these subjects at a Canadian uni has given me perspective on the differences and similarities between Australian and Canadian/United States forensic science programs and their actual applications in the field. Having taken forensic and biotechnology subjects from both CSU and an international university, I’ve gained extra experience and can hopefully use that to further my chances in the workforce on completion of my degree.

I found CSU Global and its equivalent at Trent University, the Trent International Program, to be very helpful in organising my exchange by supplying me with general information about studying abroad along with specific information about Canada. My course coordinator at CSU was also of great assistance to me when deciding on subjects to take at Trent University. This support made me feel confident and prepared when I arrived at Trent University and commenced studying in a new environment.

I have met both local and international students at Trent University. The international program organises social events to bring everyone together and I have met people from different parts of the world who will be lifelong friends. My most memorable experience on exchange has been travelling across Canada from Peterborough to Vancouver, BC, with two other exchange students from Finland and England.

I chose to study at CSU Wagga because of its regional location and distance education options. Studying by distance allows me to balance my study with work commitments. Access to online resources via WebCT along with the support from lecturers and fellow students over the subject specific chat rooms means that whenever I’m stuck with something in the lectures I’ve always got others to help me out. The residential schools have also allowed me to meet and connect with other CSU students from around Australia.
I believe that the combination of theory and practical components in my course is preparing me well for a future career in forensic science. I would recommend CSU to anyone considering studying by distance education and urge them to get in touch with CSU to discuss their options.

The subject range and option of distance education were the primary factors I considered when choosing to study at CSU. I also liked the idea of attending a regional university. My purpose for choosing to participate in an international exchange was to experience how an international university operates and meet people from around the world. I am studying a Bachelor of Forensic Biotechnology with CSU and am taking four subjects from the science area and three subjects from the forensic area at Trent. CSU staff have been very helpful and informative both in preparing for the exchange and during. I also have the support of the Trent International Program Office.