



**Australian  
National  
University**

**Scholarship recipient interview: Spencer Burnet**



The SMF was delighted to interview the RSFAS Student Managed Fund Equity Scholarship recipient, Spencer Burnet. Spencer is currently in his first semester at ANU studying a double degree in Finance, and Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE). Some of the key insights Spencer shared with the team are summarised below.

**Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I am from Bellingen, which is an 8-hour drive from Canberra and is on the coast of NSW between Brisbane and Sydney. I applied to a couple of universities but the ANU was my first choice. I am enjoying studying and the atmosphere at the ANU. My courses balance out each other: I like finance a lot, but PPE is slightly more easy-going without the heavy mathematics component. I am living at Bruce Hall, and it is good to meet people from all around Australia. It is my first time away from home so I have weekly calls with my family to check in. I visited them during holidays. It was nice to be back home for Easter!

**How does the Scholarship positively impact your study and time at the ANU?**

Financially, the scholarship is extremely helpful and alleviates a lot of stress. If I had not received the scholarship, it would have been imperative for me to get a job as soon as I commenced university to balance out my expenses. With the scholarship, I can focus more on my academic study. It allows me the pleasure of enjoying college life without being stressed about managing my degree, a job and a social life at the same time. However, I am still planning to get a job to get some relevant experience before transitioning into work full-time.

**Given your fields of study include finance and PPE, what are you more inclined towards? What are your current areas of interest for a career option post university?**

I am currently more inclined towards finance. I would love to get an internship and take it forward from there. I am very interested in politics as well, as it makes my PPE study fun. However, I find finance to be the more practical subject. Currently, I am eyeing investment banking as my preferred stream. I am aware that it is competitive, so I will be working towards it during my time at the ANU.

**How does it feel to be the Scholarship recipient? Would you consider applying for the SMF in the future?**

I acknowledge that it is a privilege to have received the scholarship. It was a great surprise to find out the scholarship existed in the first place. When I looked into it, it seemed really helpful. The SMF is an accessible avenue to gain exposure to the finance industry, particularly as it is student-led. I am hence keen to take up the course at a later stage in my university study. It is spectacular to see the results of the Fund. In a broad sense, I get to benefit from SMF students' work in producing this return and I am grateful for that.

**Where did you hear about the Scholarship?**

The University contacted me directly because I met the eligibility criteria. I submitted my statement of purpose for the Scholarship application and was then invited to do an interview. It was a relatively competitive process, with a few other students contending for the scholarship.

**What advice would you provide for students aspiring to apply for the Scholarship in the upcoming semesters?**

If you are interested in finance, mention how you envision it will fit within your ideal career path. The interview was straightforward. Be honest and present your case well. Structure your answers, starting from your background, and explain why you need the Scholarship. If you are honest about yourself, your points will resonate well with an interviewer.

*Prepared by Anvi Ghiya (Relationship Officer)*