Dutchman flies in for study plan

By MICK ROBERTS

WHAT Jasper Duineveld has seen of Bankstown over his two and a half years studying as an International student at the University of Western Sydney’s Bankstown campus, he so far likes.

Jasper, from the Netherlands, has been given the opportunity to take a five-week foray into psychology research as part of the UWS ‘Summer Vacation Research Internship’.

Of the 6,741 students at Bankstown, Jasper is one of 554 international students enrolled at the campus. For the last two years, Jasper has been living in a share house at Panania, which is only a 30-minute walk to the campus. He enrolled at UWS to study a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) degree, but quickly worked out that psychology and, in particular, psychology research was more his thing.

Jasper is pursuing a career in research – taking any unpaid opportunity that he could find to gather experience.

As part of the UWS internship, offered to four high-achieving students, he will be supervised by Dr Rachel Robbins on a project that explores how changes in view can affect our ability to recognise people’s faces.

“The reason I take part in this internship is to gain experience in the area of psychology that will help me find a job after I graduate,” he said.

The 21-year-old said he enjoyed calling Bankstown home during his studies.

Living with students from Japan and China at Panania, Jasper said he had heard Bankstown could be unsafe, but he says he has seen no proof of any danger in suburban Panania.

“There’s generally a lot of bad talk about the Bankstown area, but I live in a really quiet area and have noticed not a thing,” he said.

“Over the two and a half years I’ve lived here, you also notice that the area keeps on growing and improving.”

While at Bankstown he says he has also had an opportunity to learn a little down under culture by sharing his home with a few Australian natives.

“There have been international students; people that moved to Australia years ago and work now, and once an Australian person that just worked.”

And for the future...

“I absolutely love living here and could see myself still living here in a few years,” he said. “As a researcher in psychology, it is also common to gain a lot of experience in other countries though, and as I still want to travel, I may just end up doing that.”