What was your career path after graduating from JCU?
I completed an MA in Comparative Literature at King’s College, University of London, and thereafter devised a PhD proposal and obtained a three-year scholarship for the project, together with a part-time teaching position at Royal Holloway.

Tell us a little about your current position.
I am currently finishing my PhD on literary translation and cross-cultural communication. My project is titled “Making the Foreign Familiar: Giacomo Leopardi and Percy Bysshe Shelley in Translation,” and I should submit it by the end of 2009. I am also presenting some results from my research at conferences throughout the United Kingdom. Furthermore, I teach courses of literature and cinema at the undergraduate level. Having different tasks is what I am enjoying the most, as I hardly have the same routine and also have the chance to travel on a regular basis.

*What is it like living in London?*
From my experiences living within London, I have adapted to the fast-paced work ethic that the working world brings. I believe the opportunities that can be created here bring out the charming and cosmopolitan aura within the city. London is a unique place, and I love it.

*Was there anyone during your time at JCU who acted as a mentor for you?*
Many people, indeed... teachers, especially. I decided to apply for an MA in London thanks to excellent suggestions, especially by Professor Allan Christensen.

*Which of your JCU experiences have been the most valuable in your professional life?*
The JCU experience certainly has been priceless overall: above all, you learn to work in an international environment, and this is essential. On a more technical level, some JCU courses proved to be particularly helpful for devising my PhD project too. I learned a good deal about research while writing my undergraduate thesis at John Cabot, which helped prepare me for the academic work I’ve done since then.

*What advice would you give to students attending JCU today?*
Make the most of this experience. Study and enjoy, as there are many challenges ahead.

*Where will you take your next vacation?*
There are several ideas that I would like to explore through my next vacation. I would like to visit certain areas of the world that would inspire me to continue fulfilling my desire to learn about different cultures and further my research.

*What are your plans for the future?*
My initial plan is to publish a book from my PhD thesis, then I will endeavor to see what the future holds!!