

# Overseas PROFILE

JONATHAN BONNITCHA (BEc(SocSc) Hons '04, LLB '06)



2006 RHODES SCHOLAR Jonathan Bonnitcha has a passion for two very different fields of endeavour: international governance and ocean sports.

At the moment, the 26-year-old is studying at Oxford where he is currently enrolled in a MPhil in law – a one-year research masters – with the aim of staying on at the University to complete his doctorate. His area of interest is global economic governance and after his studies at Oxford, he hopes to work for international institutions or for the NGOs that operate alongside them.

“What interests me most about international economic governance is that international institutions and processes cannot avoid confronting policy conflicts that were previously resolved at the national level,” explains Jonathan, who was the University Medallist in Economics from Sydney. “I think shaping the development of these frameworks is a great challenge.”

As well as being academically gifted, Jonathan is also a talented sailor and windsurfer who won his first major sailing competition at the age of just 14. He gained third place at the 2002 World Sailing Championships and came first in the Mistral Class at the 2003 Australian Sailing Championship. He was also a member of the Australian Olympic windsurfing squad in 2003 and rose to first place in the Australian Olympic Class Windsurfing Rankings in 2005.

Yet despite his outstanding success in sport, Jonathan decided in 2006 that he would focus his energy on his studies. “I reached a point where progressing to the top level internationally would

have required becoming a full-time athlete,” he says. “It was a hard choice, but I chose to go to Oxford and concentrate on all the non-windsurfing-sailing things.” However, he still competes occasionally on the international stage, most recently at the 2008 Windsurfing World Championships in Auckland.

Jonathan says his time in the Faculty of Economics and Business has left him with lasting friendships and many fond memories, as well as expanding his intellectual horizons. “I think the most important things I took from my time in the Faculty were a sharpened capacity for critical thinking and an appreciation of the importance of interdisciplinary thinking in all the social sciences,” he says.

## TAKE 5

**What book is on your bedside table?**  
*Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell.

**What newspaper or journal can't you live without?**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*, online. It keeps me feeling Australian on the other side of the world.

**What DVD would you take to a desert island?**  
*The Flight of the Conchords*.

**What's the best advice you've ever been given?**  
Take what you do seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously.

**Where are you most likely to be found at the weekend?**  
On a windsurfer on an ocean, somewhere.