



The social aspects of university and college

Student FAQs

What is life really like as a student?

It can be whatever you want it to be, but for the most part students split their time between studying, taking part in other aspects of university life (such as clubs, societies and volunteering), socialising, and part-time work. Each individual has their own priorities and experiences – it's about taking advantage of the opportunities that are available and balancing study, leisure and work. If you get the balance right it will be a challenge, but you'll have a fantastic time.

What happens during the holidays?

Many students go home during the holidays to see friends or family. However a good number stay as well to continue with work or study. If you would like to stay in halls throughout the holidays this can usually be arranged through the university's accommodation office.

How will I make friends?

When going to university, everybody is in the same position and most people are really eager to make friends. Freshers' week takes place during the first week at university with lots of planned daytime and evening activities, which are a great way to make friends. There are lots of opportunities to meet people at university. Initially most people make friends with the people they live with, the people on their course and people in sports clubs or other societies run through the Students' Union. There is usually a club or society that you may be interested in and it's a great way of meeting like-minded individuals and making friends.

Can I take a part time-job and study at the same time?

Yes – many students work part-time. You need to balance it with your other commitments so that you have enough time for everything, but it is a good way to increase your income and broaden your horizons at the same time.

I can't cook! What do I do?

Some universities offer catered accommodation in the first year, which means that you get your food provided. University is a great time to learn how to cook. Everybody has access to a kitchen, and it's sometimes nice to take it in turns with people in your flat or shared house to cook for each other.

I don't want people to know about my care background. Do I have to tell people?

No, you don't have to tell people at all if you don't want to.

If I need help will there be someone there to support me?

Yes – all students have access to a wide range of support, but as a young person from a care background, you will be linked with someone who can help you out with any issues you are worried about. This might include helping you work with your local authority to get the support you are entitled to, or it could be working with you to manage your money, accommodation and other aspects of university life. They can also just be a friendly face to stay in contact with – someone who cares about your well-being while you are at university.