

# Student Voice



*Apart from gaining an amazing degree qualification, the university experience provides many opportunities for students to learn specialist skills, life skills and importantly, memories. I came to university solely for my degree qualification, yet I left with so much more than just my degree, knowledge and skills. I also graduated with social, domestic, and financial skills which all of course amount to memories, stories, and the university experience.*

**Social skills-** *University is quite communal as you share lectures with classmates, the campus facilitates with the student populous and housing digs with students' flatmates. You definitely become a part of a community within your institution and the city you are studying in. The city of Lincoln provides all sorts of social activities for the students as it houses two universities. It caters well and is certainly different to my tiny home village within Suffolk. Everything is well connected between the universities and the city, so socialising is a lot easier to get involved with.*

*Therefore, learning how to stay connected within a city environment and learning how to manage different social groups, commitments and events was certainly a new skill I gained from my university experience.*

**Domestic skills-** *University can certainly unearth some domestic skills that you will indefinitely need to learn for the future, for example I didn't know how to use a washing machine. At home I would separate my clothes into darks, lights and colours and then leave them outside the machine only to have them magically appear clean and folded on my bed the next morning!...Thanks mum! So, learning how to use the washing machine and what detergents I needed was a very valuable life skill that I learnt and continually use to this day!*



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*At home, I would say I was quite well pampered by my parents so my domestic skills in cooking, cleaning and home maintenance was little. So, university really helped me to develop those skills while I lived away from home within student accommodation. Do not be afraid though, I was not alone trying to work out the washing machine or how to use the oven - there were lots of students who I lived with that also did know. The internet/YouTube can be a great resource in getting a helping hand with anything household chores you aren't sure about. I also found that a lot of my flatmates had different domestic skills and we subsequently learnt from each other - this can also be a great way of bonding!*

***Financial skills-** Managing money plays a big role within your university experience as it is your responsibility to apply and manage your loans or grants. Freedom with the money you are given to maintain your living can be overwhelming however there is lots of help out there. Setting yourself a termly budget can help you organise what money you need to spend on living and what money you have left over for social activities/clubs. I hadn't had a lot of experience handling money independently until I went to university and lived on my own. However, doing so made me work out how to pay my bills and manage my living style. The skills I learnt at university for finance were critical and I apply them every day within my working life and gap year now.*

*Many universities offer support and even some workshops for students during the first term to help students get organised when it comes to finance. At BGU the Student Advice team are really helpful for financial advice or support. Overall university is such an enriching experience full of options and choice. For me, I found that the university experience allows you to grow into a subject specialist and also into the person you really are.*



*Bethany*

**LINC**HIGHER