

Year 13

Advice & Tips for Starting at University

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Student Ambassador01: Hello everyone! My name is Branwen and I am currently in my second year of studying BSc Politics and International Relations with Business modules! The theme for today's forum is Advice & Tips for Starting at University. For those of you who are new to forums, you are welcome to ask me questions either directly related to the theme or about any other aspect of University life. I will refer any questions that I can't answer to a member of the Exeter Scholars scheme and they will get back to you with a response within a few days! For those who have logged on before, welcome back! Before we start, I'd like to give you a quick session on how the session itself works, just in case you haven't done this before! When you post a message, it will be sent to me in order for me to reply. When I reply to your message, it will then post to the public wall for you and everyone else to see. Until I have replied, nobody else will see your message. Bear with me if you can, as when the forum gets busy it may take me a few moments longer to reply.

Student Ambassador01: But don't worry, I won't have forgotten you! I will start all of the message replies with the name of the person I am replying to, just to make the discussion easier to follow. If I am posing a question to the whole group, I will start the message with 'everyone'

Student Ambassador01: I hope all of this makes sense! So, to get started, has anyone thought more about going to University?

Student Ambassador02 2: Hello everyone!

Student Ambassador02 2: My name is Sophie and I am also a second year student and I study Renewable energy Engineering

Kezia Egargo: In terms of starting university, do you have any advice on balancing academic and social life correctly?

Student Ambassador02 2: It's a tricky balance to strike, especially during Freshers' Week when everyone is trying to make loads of friends. Obviously work hard, go to your lectures and set yourself up well academically but also don't stress too much and make sure you have a good time as well.

Student Ambassador02: Hi! I'm also called Sophie and I am studying Classical Studies and Theology. I would say the important thing is to find what works for you. You'll learn very quickly how much work is required for each module and how much free time you have. Definitely join societies and find things to do which you enjoy and you'll find your own pace really quickly :)

Student Ambassador02 2: When I first started uni I had stuck with the same school group since year 9 so had not had to make friends properly for a while but it is worth putting some time into and you'll find lots of people with things in common with you from your course and clubs and societies

Kezia Egargo: Yeah, I applied for universities that are considerably far from Devon and for the longest time had felt a sense of excitement at the thought of more independence but as we get closer to it, my

group of friends have realised that we will no longer be spending as much time together and will have to make new friends. What actually happens during Freshers' Week?

Student Ambassador02: I would maybe say one thing about societies, when I arrived at Uni, I joined so many societies I couldn't actually go to everything - which is fine! During Fresher's Week, there are stalls all week which are representing lots of different societies and on your first day you'll get a booklet with all the events of the week inside it. I'd go through this and mark the events you are interested in because this is your chance to try different societies, see what they are like and make some friends. Then on the Saturday you can join them at the Fair

Student Ambassador02 2: I know the feeling it is great when you reunite at Christmas though! Freshers' Week is a slightly strange time there are lots of taster sessions and free activities going on and possibly you might have some course inductions which are talks from your lecturers about what they have planned.