

The Honest Truth About Life As A University Student

Being a university student can be many things; exciting, confusing, rewarding, difficult, and stressful. If you ask a group of students about their experiences of university life, you're more than likely to hear a different answer every time. Everyone's university journey is undoubtedly different. From seeking a ceaseless social life to taking that extra step to reach your career aspirations, the most amazing element of university is that it offers a different journey for everyone.

This blog is all about the honest truth of life as a university student from me, Jake Mawhinney, a final year student who has faced the trials and tribulations of the student experience, and to show that there is no one-way path to experience this 'exciting and sought-after life' that a many great deal of the younger generation are eagerly waiting to experience.

The triumph is yours for the taking. If university taught me one thing, it is that you get out of it what you put into it. It is all subjective. Now, this is all down to what you want and what you want to explore during your time at university. Many students are contempt with just attending lectures, getting the work done, and moving on. Other students join simply for the social life experience of making new friends, joining societies and partying until you're sat in your lecture the next morning with a coffee in one hand, your pen slipping from your grasp in the other hand, all the while you're fighting to keep your hungover eyes focused on the lecture slides. To these students, their triumph comes from making it through and experiencing the previous night's shenanigans. You have students who experience all of the above at once. Your university triumph is what you decide it to be.

Feeling overwhelmed might be your new best friend. Now, don't get me wrong, this is not a ploy to push you away from your aspirations of joining or staying at university. If anything, the overwhelming amount of assignments that you juggle is what crafts you into a graduate that will be ever more equipped for life after university. The feeling of being overwhelmed might not be assignments, it might be the start of a new chapter in your life where you're suddenly pushed out of your comfort zone and into something new. It's important to remind yourself that throwing yourself into these experiences shapes who you are. Sometimes it's good to feel overwhelmed, but pay attention to when it is not.

Whatever you're feeling, someone else will be too. One of the great many things about university is that you will always find someone in the same boat as you. Maybe even a ship. The best part is that this can be applied to many different contexts. You haven't started the assignment? I bet the person behind you hasn't either. You don't know how to borrow a book from the library? The group of students you walked past probably don't know how to. The biggest one for me was making friends. I did not know anyone when I joined my course, but if you muster up some unfamiliar courage and make that leap to become approachable and talkative, you'll be surprised at what you might find. For some of you, including me, you might find that your friendships don't always remain that way and that you go on to discover new friends and find your happiness in them. It's different for everyone and with friendships, it's like finding a girlfriend or a boyfriend. When you know, you know.

To summarize

The life and journey of a university student is unique to YOU. In a way, this blog is to remind you to not feel let down by what you're currently experiencing or what you have endured so far. Once you stop comparing your experiences to other peoples, then you will see the flower begin to bloom.

