



Jasmine

I left South Nottinghamshire Academy in the summer of 2022, having studied 3 A levels in Sociology, Spanish and English Language. I enjoyed sixth form and it gave me more time to think about what I wanted to do for higher education. At one point along my journey, I thought I would go into Architecture! Fast forward from y10 work experience, to now!

I have just started University and it has already been such an exciting experience. I'm studying at Newcastle for a joint honours in Media and Politics – doing a combined degree enables you to study 2 or 3 subjects, that may never have been put together otherwise. It also allows you to meet so many likeminded young people learning a variety of subjects. Whilst I didn't study either of these options for my A levels, combining knowledge acquired from my other subjects and GCSEs, has really hasn't been that difficult, ***Sociology comes up in everything!***

Most people worry about making friends, but just think of it like this ... everyone is in the same boat, just being friendly and saying Hi, is really appreciated! I would recommend doing a lot on Freshers' Week, but if partying isn't for you, there are so many freshers' fairs to go to with lots of student discounts, which you'll definitely need! Societies are also a great way to make friends, they range from fashion to DJ-ing, and there are loads of sports teams too.

My accommodation isn't on campus, but in an incredible location about ten minutes away from Uni, across the street from St James Park, which is very handy for matchdays! I'm actually on the ninth floor so the view is amazing. My flatmates are also great! We've bonded well and we're going to Amsterdam very soon for a few days, and planning on living together next year too.

Aside from studying, I have a part time job at Grosvenor Casino. This is not essential, but I like that it provides another way to meet people, and the managers work around my uni timetable. Of course, the extra income is also helpful as living on a student budget can be challenging. Independence is certainly a huge part of uni life and I can recommend it. It helps you to build wider skills, aside from the studying and I am learning about budgeting and new ways to reflect on my work and be organised. I am also enjoying networking on LinkedIn. This is a must for all older students and I am so glad I learnt about this in school, as I started to build my profile in year 12.

All in all, Newcastle is such a great student city, there is so much to do and you can get everywhere easily with the help of metros and buses. There is a lot of help available within student services and the staff in general – including those in your accommodation. The autumn colours and views as you will see, are amazing at the moment 😊

Good luck to all those students leaving school next summer. Work Hard and be the best that you can! I hope to come back to see you soon.