

My Uni Experience

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Degree: Sociology and Criminology

First Year – I started Uni studying Psychology and Criminology, after taking a gap year teaching and travelling in Vietnam. I found that studying a joint degree in two different departments was quite difficult, as there were different requirements from each field. As a result, I decided to change my degree scheme to Sociology and Criminology, which are both part of the Social Sciences school. I had to complete two conversion essays over the summer period to be entered in to Sociology in the second year.



I did not join any Uni societies or teams in first year as I focused on the social aspect and getting back into studying after taking a year out.

Second Year – Due to having done the conversion tasks, I felt confident and able starting Sociology in the second year. Being involved in only one school also made me feel more comfortable in my degree.

I became more involved in the 'Uni experience' in second year, and took part in extra-curricular activities such as the SOCSI mentoring scheme. I undertook an interview and training to become a mentor for under-achieving GCSE students at a local school. My role as a mentor included helping the mentees with revision and essay techniques, time-management, and other general school matters. Through this project I got involved with the CPD (Certificate of Professional Development) Panel, which is made up of a group of students involved in the management and development of the CPD scheme. During my second year at Uni, I also attended various academic workshops and took part in a creativity workshop with a group of Engineers.

Final Year – In my final year I took part in a volunteering project called Amelia Trust Farm through the SVC (Student Volunteering Cardiff). The project is based at the Amelia Trust Farm, just outside Cardiff, and we go to the farm every Wednesday afternoon and work with adults with learning difficulties, doing jobs around the farm. Through my participation in the mentoring scheme last year, I got involved again, and help process the mentor report sheets and general administrative duties.

Through CPD opportunities I got involved with a charity called Egmont, an African AIDS project, processing application claims for grants from African communities. I have also had the opportunity to work closely with a member of the academic staff, Phil Brown, working on his key ideas and terms for a website.

The reason I have taken part in so many extra-curricular activities is to enhance my CV and also to get the most out of the Uni experience. Being involved in different aspects of Uni life has improved my confidence and ability to work with other students of different age, course and background and also with academic staff.