



Thomas Telford Alumni Students - An insight into University Life!

Name:

Grace

A Levels / BTEC Courses studied at TTS:

A Level Biology, Chemistry and History

What course and where are you currently studying:

I'm currently studying Paramedic Science at Staffordshire University, so I am a Student Paramedic with West Midlands Ambulance Service. Currently, due to the current situation, I am employed by WMAS as a clinical assistant front line worker.

What is the best part about student life?

The best thing about student life is the people you meet! And also there's always social activities and events going on to do with friends especially during freshers week.

1. Are you happy with the course you have chosen, and what is the best part about it?

I am so happy with the course and career I've chosen, the best part about it for me is being able to meet so many people while being on placement and being able to help and treat patients by responding to 999 calls.

2. How much contact time do you have with course staff and lecturers?

When I'm at university my contact hours are around 16-20 hours a week, this includes lectures and skills lab time. When I'm on placement I have 0 contact hours to university time and instead contact my paramedic mentor. However, my university uses Microsoft teams which is like Facebook for workplaces, so I can easily look at past lectures, notices or message my lecturers easily.

3. How have you coped with self-managed learning? How have you found the change from classroom work to more independent learning, such as attending lectures, managing your own workload, taking notes from lectures and writing assignments?

Learning is completely different to school, in the sense that your lecture doesn't always cover everything you need to know, and its very unlikely you'll actually learn it all within the lecture, you have to go away and learn and research it yourself. Attending lectures for myself is compulsory since as a health care career I am answerable to a higher health care professions council, and need to ensure I am fully qualified by attending everything. The hardest thing about writing assignments is referencing, this might be especially hard if you

didn't do essay writing subjects previously. Referencing is so time consuming and it has to be formatted correctly in order to gain marks for it. My lectures are all recorded or uploaded as a PowerPoint online so if I miss notes in lectures it's easy to catch up afterwards.

4. How much work do you have to do outside lectures? And are your lecturers there to give support. How well do you know your tutor?

At my university we all get assigned personal tutors, I personally get on with mine really well, it's a completely different relationship to your teachers, some of our tutors got involved at freshers week! The workload outside of lectures isn't bad, its helpful to learn things as you go, especially since we start placement early on its important to know what you're doing.

5. Do you have time to get a part-time job, either on campus or nearby?

I have been paid by the university to help at open days for future students. I kept my part time job at my dance school, however during placement it can be difficult to keep a job since we do 24/7 shifts. Currently, I'm employed by the NHS as clinical assistant front line worker due to the current conditions.

6. Would you recommend joining as many extra curriculum activities as possible to get the most out of the student experience? What societies do you belong to?

I would 100% recommend joining a society when you start university, they host so many fun social events and it's a great way to meet people when you start. Because of placement I can't completely commit to a sports team society like I wanted but I go to an overall sport society which isn't team or competition based and you can drop in whenever for the different activities they host.

7. What has been the hardest thing about embracing university life?

Being more independent and taking on more responsibility, especially with my course I go to real patients when on shift, it's a massive responsibility.

8. What is living in Halls like? How safe do you feel?

I live at home due to being on placement 60% of the time, it wasn't worth moving into halls, however I didn't miss out on any freshers events or the uni lifestyle.

9. How do you manage money, and have you been able to budget well, or has money been tight?

You learn how to manage money quite early on, I spent most of my money during freshers week as we were all going out, you get take outs and you pay to go out and do something with people you've met.

10. What if you don't get on with people, and you don't want to join a drinking culture? What other clubs and societies are there?

There's something at university for everyone. There's over 500 societies at my university or you can make your own if you want to.

11. Are there people you can talk to, who can help with stress and anxiety?

Because of placement and our role, we get free counselling and therapy sessions through university and also the NHS, however it's really easy to talk to your tutors with any concerns or stress you might have.

12. Is there anything else you wish you had known when researching or selecting Universities? Or any advice you want to pass on to current students:

My advice is make sure you pick a subject you really enjoy and can see it leading to something in the future and get involved with every opportunity you get to do.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. We appreciate your help!
Best wishes for the future from all of us at Thomas Telford School.**