



## **Thomas Telford Alumni Students - An insight into University Life!**

Name:

**Hannah Parker**

A Levels / BTEC Courses studied at TTS :

**Art, Psychology and Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)**

What course and where are you currently studying:

**Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University**

1. What is the best part about student life?

**I think the best part about student life is living away by yourself, you have an opportunity to find new community, in flatmates, course mates, and people you meet in the city!**

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

**Yeah, I love my course. I'm not going to lie I was unsure when I started it in first year as it was such a different environment to Art at school, but I embraced it and absolutely love it now! I love the freedom of this course, you can make, paint, build, and film anything you want to explore. The course has been great at helping me find my niche as an artist by being playful and experimental.**

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

**About 8-10 hours a week. The tutor's office is connected to our studios and they are so happy to answer questions about any work, either right there in the studios or over email!**

4. 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?

**Again, this is something I struggled with at the start of first year, as it was so independent and there is lots of freedom. But I learnt to love this freedom and it really prepares you for life after university. The workload, taking notes and writing assignments I've found fine to get on with!**

5. 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?

**As my course is an art course, all the work is done outside of lectures. We only have two lectures for artistic inspiration from two different practising artists every week. And when we do art context for a writing assignment that adds one lecture a week. The rest of our time is spent in the studios making work and having tutorials! Our tutors are incredible, they know us all by name and know all of our practices, through tutorials we have with them and when they mark our work. We know them well and they know us well!**

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

**Yes I had plenty of time to as it's a majority self-led course. For me I had a job on campus in first year at the student union café and have since worked in the university call centre and as a student ambassador. All of the campus jobs are well paid and are understanding about course management too, they are totally happy if you need extra time off near deadlines etc!**

7. 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 haven't joined any societies in my time at uni, I tried a couple but I found I had enough to do socialising with flatmates and friends as well as going to church and socialising with friends and getting involved with different art and music events in the city!**

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

**I've had a great time and honestly nothing comes to mind straight away. I guess just the freedom of the course in first year, but after Christmas I loved it, I think its just getting used to it!**

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

**I loved living in halls! I felt really safe, I made great friends in my flat and we had a great year together.**

10. How often do you travel home? Has it been easy to get home when you have needed too?

**In first year I only travelled home in the holidays, I wanted to make sure I built a good support system for myself in the city I was living in. So on weekends, I'd hang out with friends and go to church and get to know the city! In second year I came home a bit more just to see my siblings and family more!**

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

**I've worked since I was 15 so it wasn't too bad when I first came to uni, as I had savings, since then I've had to have a job in term time and a job in summers too, to keep up my finances!**

12. 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?

**If you don't get on with people in your flat that's totally fine! I had a friend with that issue and he came and chilled in our flat all the time instead! Get to know as many people as you can in the first few weeks of uni, there are so many places to make friends (course, flat, accommodation, societies, nights out, the library, events in the city) so don't stress because everyone is in the same boat!!**

**There are loads of people who don't join in the drinking culture, some of my friends do regular sober nights out and love it! Others like to chill in mate's flats and have games nights and stuff and that's fab too! Everyone is different and you'll find loads of different options.**

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

**Yes! Student unions are great at this. And speak to your tutors too, they should be understanding.**

14. 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:

**I'd think about the place you are going to be living! Whether you want to be in a huge city or a smaller place, close to home or far away from home, because you will be living there for 3(+) years! The reason I chose Sheffield as an option is because I love the countryside and I wanted to live somewhere with a good city for coffee shops, events and nights out, but also near to countryside! In Sheffield it's a 15 minute bus ride to the peak district which is perfect and there are loads of parks and gardens in the city too.**

**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.**