



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

**Name:** Lily

**A Levels / BTEC Courses studied at TTS:**

History, Applied Science and Performing Arts

**What course and where are you currently studying:**

Childhood and Family Studies and Education at the University of Wolverhampton

**1. What is the best part about student life?**

Meeting new people. On my course there are a lot more mature students who say this is their 'last chance' meaning everyone is so motivated to do the work. There's also a lot of freedom and I am treated like an adult.

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

I am very happy with my course after a rocky start- I initially studied Drama at Aberystwyth University, I didn't enjoy living away from home which affected my studies, I convinced myself I wasn't 'university clever' and I just wasn't happy but it wasn't too late for me to change. I moved home and changed courses and I haven't been happier, not only does this course allow me to go into teaching which has always been a dream, but also gives me the opportunity to go into safeguarding and social work if I wanted to. The modules I've studied so far have been great and I have no exams- it is all coursework based.

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

I have 9 hours a week of contact time, so far I have had 6 different lecturers over my 6 modules- each of them always responded quickly to emails and would arrange meetings when I was struggling. Each student also has a personal tutor.

**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?**

My course has been more classroom based than I expected, all of my modules have been in a seminar style rather than a lecture copying from a board and note making. This has been good for me as it means we're going through the work on the same day, gives us chance to ask questions there and then and wasn't too much of a change from school.

**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?**

Outside of lectures we have online activities that we can do if we want to, there is also a reading list that are helpful for our courses, but this is all optional for how much you want to do (you don't get punished for doing none) I have met with my tutor a few times having started at Wolverhampton late due to my change of uni's and courses, she wanted to make sure I settled well and was up to speed.

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

Yes I work part time at Nando's.

**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 joined societies at Aber just as it was a chance to meet new people and try something new, I haven't joined anything at Wolverhampton due to starting late, I wanted to catch up on the work I missed.

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

The change in how you're viewed not only by lecturers but your parents- you're now an adult, you have a certain set of responsibilities that only you can do, no longer babied to make sure you get the work done- it's your own fault if you don't.

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

I only stayed in halls whilst I was at Aber which was just shy of a month. I moved into the 'student village' which is more of a house than halls, I lived with 3 boys and 2 girls- my house mates would have been the only thing to keep me at Aber, it felt safe and we would keep our rooms open- the trust was immediate which was great.

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

I now live at home, when I was at Aber I travelled home once which was easy by train.

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

I still get a student loan living at home and my outgoings are only a small amount such as money to my parents, and my own luxuries such as a Spotify account and amazon. Having a part time job means I'm also not struggling for money.

**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?**

There are ranges of societies to join, you just have to do your research.

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

Any of the staff on your course are eager for you to seek help from them or your tutor. There is also my faculty on campus who you can go to with any problems.

**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:**

Don't feel as though you have to move away, the best decision I made was moving back home. You may feel as though you miss out but living at home I have so much more free time meaning I could get a job and I can still live the 'university life' when I visit my friends at Uni, 2 of my best friends are at Liverpool and 1 in London, meaning I've become quite the traveller in between working and term time to see them.

**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.**