



Thomas Telford Alumni Students - An insight into University Life!

Name:

Megan

A Levels / BTEC Courses studied at TTS:

Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Product Design

What course and where are you currently studying:

Mechanical Engineering with biomedical engineering at University of Southampton

1. What is the best part about student life?

Getting to make your own decisions about things, whether that be what clubs to join, subjects to study or what to eat for dinner. It's great to explore what interests you.

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

I am really happy with the course I chose; I particularly enjoy getting lots of opportunities to work in groups on short projects as well as learn new and interesting things in lectures.

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

I have quite a lot of lectures each week but I also have tutorial problem classes and other activities like Labs, engineering is quite a contact heavy subject. However, still have plenty of time to do other things.

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?

Although initially it was a little strange having to do almost everything yourself, the lectures were all really helpful and good at transitioning me to the new workload. There is also lots of help available if you need it whether that be attending drop-in sessions or emailing staff.

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?

There is quite a lot of content in the course and you are expected to do quite a bit in your own time particularly in terms of solving problems and writing up notes. I have a personal

tutor group with four people, our tutor meets with us individually or as a group a few times in the year or we can contact them specifically.

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

There isn't really time to do much work on an engineering course but, I am a casual worker for the university as a student ambassador on applicant/open days.

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?

It's a good idea to go to some taster activities in fresher's week to pick something you really enjoy. I joined SUstrings, the university string orchestra, it's great because its run by students so it's pretty casual and there are lots of social activities.

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

Moving away from home and being independent is very different to being at home but it has really helped to build my confidence.

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

Living in halls is great, I went for the cheapest accommodation on campus but, it's clearly the best. I really enjoy living with a variety of other students and we have lots of fun in the house. My accommodation was slightly off campus in a little student complex which is really good as it feels really safe and there are staff and security to help with any problems.

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

I moved quite far from home so I only come home during the holidays. I haven't really needed to go home during term and I can phone home if I want to talk to family. I personally think it's good to move away and develop my independence.

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

It's quite important to budget at university, but I haven't had too much of a problem. By trying to save money here and there as well as live in a cheaper hall, I have been able to afford to do more fun things like go on tour with my society.

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?

I like to go out like most people but, I don't tend to drink. Everyone is really nice and are pretty accepting of someone not wanting to drink. The University also runs 'zero' alcohol

events like movies, laser tag etc. There are plenty of other clubs from netball to quidditch, knitting to origami, you can find something to suit you or make your own.

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

The university has an anonymous helpline called student life which you can contact if you need help or just want someone to talk to and there are student services for anything more serious.

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:

If you can visit the university before you finalise your options that is really helpful. It's also good to pick out what things are most important and don't be afraid to pick a different university than your friends because you will make plenty when you get there.

**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.**