



Thomas Telford Alumni Students - An insight into University Life!

Name: **Rebecca**

A Levels / BTEC Courses studied at TTS:

Biology, History and Geography

What course and where are you currently studying:

Occupational Therapy at Sheffield Hallam University

1. What is the best part about student life?

Meeting new people, having a sense of independence, going out with friends.

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

I am very happy with the course that I chose. One of the best parts about it is the practical elements where you get to try some of the theory that you have been taught.

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

Contact time varies week by week on my course. On an average week, I see my lecturers most days.

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?

I enjoy self-managed learning as I can do it at my own pace at a time that suits me however it does take practice to learn how to manage time effectively! I have enjoyed the change from classroom work as it encourages me to use my initiative and to seek help when I need it.

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?

I have a reasonable amount of work to do outside of lectures however I have not yet found it overwhelming. I can contact lecturers for support if I require it. I know my academic advisor reasonably well but do feel I would benefit from more timetabled sessions with her.

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

I have not got a part time job at uni as I was due to go on placement in April until June and wouldn't be able to balance placement hours, a job and my other uni modules all at the same time.

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 would recommend joining any extra curriculum activities that suit you however do not feel pressured if you cannot find any you like as you will make friends in other places! The best way to get the most out of the student experience is to talk to the people in your flat and on your course, by being friendly and putting yourself out there, you will make friends and have fun.

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

The hardest thing for me was being confident on the first day and approaching people to make conversation. I also found it very difficult to say goodbye to my parents but I quickly settled in.

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

I loved living in Halls, it was sociable, fun and also exciting to have a space of your own. I felt safe in my accommodation as we had 24/7 security but was always conscious of keeping safe.

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

I travel home every month or so, in the first term I did not go home until I no longer felt homesick as I didn't want to make it harder for myself to return to uni again. It is fairly easy to get home from uni, I get two trains.

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

I have two bank accounts, one that I use simply for going out and the other for food shopping and laundry costs, this helped me to make sure I didn't use most of my budget on nights out! My parents also sent me to uni with all the dry and tinned food I would need which meant I only needed to buy fresh stuff, I budgeted this well.

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 plenty of people at uni who do not drink! Be honest with people and you will be surprised how many other people also do not want to drink a lot either!

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

There is plenty of people to talk to, at Hallam we have a student support service and everyone has an allocated academic advisor who they can talk to if necessary.

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 would always make sure that it is not really difficult for you to travel home as knowing I could go home easily if I wanted made me feel more connected to my family and less homesick. Also, always look at the accommodation so you know if you'll be happy staying 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.**