

# Enhancement Theme

## Inter-Institutional Collaboration Project



### Student Biographies

Preceding each set of individual student videos is a 'my university experience' video.

#### The first year experience

##### Shelly's story

Shelly is a first year undergraduate student studying on an Education degree. In this clip Shelly discusses some of the setbacks she encountered when applying to study at university and how she followed her ambition to transfer onto a primary teaching degree programme. Shelly also discusses her experiences of volunteering, leading a student support group, learning on placement and how she coped with the transition to university level study.

##### Megan's Story

Megan reflects on her learning during the first year of undergraduate studies on a Nursing degree programme. Megan discusses her experiences of living in halls of residence, learning to budget and manage her finances and how she used feedback on her assignments to enhance her grades.

#### The experience of mature students

##### Eddie's story

Eddie is a mature student on a Criminology degree programme who commenced studies after a life changing event. In this clip Eddie discusses why it is important to him to complete a degree and what helps him to succeed while studying at university. Eddie also talks about the benefits he has gained from actively participating in the students union and the support he has found most helpful while studying.

### **Anshu's story**

Anshu is originally from India and came to Scotland to study for a Masters degree in IT Management. Anshu discusses the differences between her undergraduate and postgraduate experiences and how she met the expectations of postgraduate level study with the support from her lecturers. Anshu has recently returned to study Accountancy after a break of 8 years and discusses the benefits of an induction programme to help her meet new people and learn about the course.

### **Scott's story**

Scott is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student on an Administration Information and Technology programme which articulates with year 3 of a Business and management degree. Scott is returning to university after previously discontinuing studies when he was 17. Scott discusses how he overcomes the challenges of mixing and connecting with classmates on a distance learning course and reflects on his approach to studies as a mature student.

## **The experience of students directly entering a course at year 2 (SCQF8), 3 (SCQF 9) or 4 (SCQF 10)**

### **Steve's Story**

Steve is a year 2 direct entrant on a Public Psychology degree programme. In this clip Steve talks about his ambition to be the first person in his family to complete a degree and how close links between his college and university helped him to prepare for university level studies. Steve also discusses the financial support available to him and his family while studying and his experiences of undertaking an internship.

### **Ryan and Chris's stories**

Ryan and Chris are direct entrants to Sports Science programmes. Ryan entered directly into the fourth year and Chris the third year. Ryan and Chris both discuss the benefits of the support they received from the student disability services and the impact on their marks. They also discuss how they overcame initial worries about mixing and connecting with other students when they entered the course.

### **Suad's story**

Suad is a third year direct entrant student on a biomedical science degree programme. Suad grew up in the Sudan and her family immigrated to the UK when she still was at school. Suad talks about the differences that she encountered between studying at college and university and the benefits of group study to help her revise for exams. Suad also talks about her experiences of joining clubs and the factors that keep her motivated to continue studying.

## **The experience of post graduate students**

### **Megan's story**

Megan is a post graduate research student in the first year of full time PhD studies. Megan discusses the differences between her experiences of undergraduate and post graduate study, the support systems she has used and what motivates her to succeed.

## **Melissa's story**

Melissa is originally from Turkey and previously studied for an undergraduate degree in France. In this clip Melissa reflects on her transition to a Masters level programme at a Scottish university, finding accommodation in an unfamiliar city and the benefit of an induction programme which helped her to meet new people and develop a sense of belonging.

In a second clip Melissa discusses her experiences of PhD studies in a Scottish university, her challenges with studying in English as a second language and the factors that keep her motivated to persist with doctoral studies.

The video series end with a 'top tips' video.