

Get Ready School leavers say...

What's uni really like? How will it be different from school, and what will help me make a success of my uni studies? Here's what these students said.

Uni is completely different from school

So what's uni really like? It's challenging but it's also exciting - you'll be expected to really stretch yourself both as a learner and as an individual. At school you may have known lots of people and had many friends. At uni you might not know many people at first and you could find yourself in very big classes, with a wide mix of age groups. It can be overwhelming at first! But you soon find you make new friends.

Coming to uni is an amazing opportunity to make new friends

"I came from quite a small town, nowhere near Edinburgh, and had always had my set group of friends from as far back as primary school, and what I was most worried about when coming to uni was being completely alone and having to make a new set of friends, on my own, for the first time. Don't get me wrong though, it's been an amazing experience, and has definitely taught me a whole new range of social skills."

Robyn, Animal Biology

Become an independent learner

Another way uni is different from school is that you're in charge of your studies. There is less interaction with staff than at school, and more emphasis on independent learning. You'll have fewer classes, but that doesn't mean you have lots of free time! You'll be in charge of when and how you do your studying. It's important to be organised, and to plan your studies from the start.

Study groups

'It's useful, I've found, to have study groups with other students in the class, and to go over any past papers or any issues you're having. Sometimes one person understands a topic better than another person, so you can work together and just help each other.'

Romana, Software Engineering

Tutorials

'Tutorials I find were very helpful, they often gave me a better understanding about what I had been taught in lectures. They provide the opportunity to ask questions, which isn't always easy. But I learnt that it's better to ask, as there is always someone else who doesn't understand the same thing as you.'

Elaine, Accountancy and Finance