



REVAMP +

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The Student Edition



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A big area that needs more discussion in recent years, is University worth it for young people anymore? If so, is there a need for creativity within University? Is socialising as a student detrimental to studying? Is part time work as a student killing social life and free time?

There are so many questions new students have. The real issue is in recent years where the University standard is being questioned from the public on whether it is worth it anymore. Even current students can have these questions about whether this will help their future ideas and careers.

If you have any of these questions or worries then this issue of REVAMP + should be helpful to new and current students with these questions. Here are the questions and areas that will be covered to help you. Of course REVAMP +’s goal is to not only help with these questions but also promote the advantages that you may not have known were there in having a life as a student.

Is it all worth it?

By the end of this Issue we will be able to answer this.

Having doubts is always going to be something that can rest in the back of your mind whilst studying at university. That’s normal! Hopefully REVAMP + can be that guide for you going forward.

If you are ever in doubt, speak to your lecturers, student support or even your student union! They will always be able to provide that guidance and what the next steps can be!

Is creativity needed?

The simple answer is YES!

Of course the “what, where, when, why, and how” will be shown on page 5

It will be a deeper dive into how creativity functions and why it is useful for any student across the world who is currently, or new to, studying in university.

You will be surprised how much creativity is needed and can be so helpful to students everywhere!

Students say...

It’s always helpful to know what current students have to say about university and the advice they give. This kind of information can help you with how you may approach university from here on. Whether you are a current or new student.

There is some deeper questioning but also some softer questions that some new students can have towards this huge next step in their lives.

If you have questions, these current students have the answers!

go to page 9 to see what they have to say to help you!

What's the Issue?



Creativity IS needed!



Why is creativity needed? Whatever you create is unique to you and can be shown to the world as yours! Whether this is artwork, written story, performed, crafted, digital etc. It is unique to how you want it to be presented, with effort you have put into it. No one can take that from you!

So how does it fit around university as a student?

Don't I have to be on an art course to be creative in university?

Can't I just use AI to make what I want now anyway?

First, let's just address the first two questions...

No, you do not have to be an art student to be creative in university. You can be on any course and use creativity to showcase and demonstrate your research, written work, practical work, and even when you are at home and not on campus.

- You are on a course dedicated to written work and research. How you write, memorise, and present your findings through your own techniques and practices is a form of creativity! It is what fits you best and helps you produce your own work! It is YOURS!

- You are on a course dedicated to Sports / Teaching / Coaching that involves practical demonstrations. How you craft the way you demonstrate these aspects that fits your best way is creative! It is still an outlet that allows you to show how you have problem solved and designed something to showcase! It is YOURS!

- You are on a course that has exams. If you have an exam on your course then you will need to revise to memorise information. Revising to help maintain information is not fun. BUT, it can be a great way to find what best suits you to learn! That can be crafting questions, games, or even colour code. You are still being creative by designing your best way to retain information! It is YOURS!

- You are on a course that is an art form. This is obvious right? Well sometimes people, like myself, have those moments that block your mind from finding that one thing to craft your unique style and ambition. How you can overcome this can be creative! For me, it's just sit back for a while, practice and experiment with different things. For you it could be having a wall of inspiration. Whatever it may be, it's creative. It is YOURS!

Now the big one, using AI. Cheating on your work with AI? Not creative. Asking AI to come up with practical demonstration plans? Not creative. Asking AI to create an art piece for you? Not creative....

Basically, don't let AI take away what you can create to help you grow! It is way more rewarding to create what you want yourself. It is YOURS!



My Advice

When making questions for students to answer, I thought I would include my own answers! So down below is the bit of advice I feel is necessary for new and current students to read and take away to help elevate the already great experiences they will gain from being at university!

“Don’t overthink anything, just take in the moments that surround you, breathe, and don’t be afraid to talk and ask for help at any point. Try getting involved as much as you can, but not to the point you feel uncomfortable. Be you, don’t be anything else!”

Essentially, don’t feel forced into doing anything, do what makes you comfortable. University may be 3 to 4 years but they go by so quick. So take it all in and have a moment to breathe and understand that this is all for yourself and the foundation you will be setting yourself up with. If there is worry, concern or any moments of feeling down, go to your lecturers, student support, student union or even your friends to have these conversations. They will help you, guide you and you will feel much better for it. You will be okay. Don’t put more pressure than needed on yourself, do what you can! More importantly go and have fun and don’t be afraid to be who you are!

Student Q & A

In this section of the magazine we will have an interview with a handful of students who took part, to help you understand their experiences and how you can take this and even learn or use the advice given! If you have a question or worry, this section should allow you to feel fulfilled and have the answers to help you going forward!

So far you should have had some thoughts and opinions gathered from information I have given you. Take that and use it as consideration when looking through what students have had to say!

Of course I wouldn't be able to answer everything myself as my opinions and experiences can be different to others. That being said there is a trend in the answers coming up. See if you can spot it! The pages after will point out this trend.

Whilst reading the answers, think back to your school, sixth form or college to try and pick out what was fun and enjoyable for yourself and apply that thought to this and how you can bring that to university with you!





Riley

“Never apologise for anything out of your control, be unapologetically yourself”

What was a worry you had when joining University?

My biggest worry going to university was meeting people; college had convinced me I couldn't make any friends or speak to people I didn't know.

How did you overcome it?

I overcame that worry through people not only going out of their way to speak to me, but me having the confidence to respond in turn.

Describe University:

The place when you can really be yourself.

Were fresher events helpful?

It was helpful because it gave me the environment to meet and bond with people over something, helping me keep my cool.

How did university guide you to your friendships?

Freshers events and collaboration both in our courses and cross discipline.

What is your favourite thing about University?

My favorite thing about university is without a doubt the social aspect. University life day to day, meeting people to study, work together, go out, chat, have lunch, all the menial bits that make knowing people fun. University provides the framework to build and cultivate some of the best friendships.

What advice do you have for new students?

Put yourself out there, no matter how terrifying it may be to walk through those doors, put a good foot forward and try to talk to people.

What was it that made you gain your friendships at University?

A combination of freshers events, collaboration early on in the course, meeting people through mutual social gatherings. University made it so easy to make friends, more than I ever could have imagined.

How is the social to workload balance in university?

My balancing between work and social life has been very sporadic, but has generally been defined by focusing on something I need to get done, then when it is done, allowing myself to enjoy my time



Leyton

“Breathe, slow down, you wouldn’t be on the course if it was impossible for you to do. You’re human”

Is there opportunities in University to help you grow?

I think simply attending and talking to the lecturers is an opportunity in itself to utilise for growth. Not only will they answer any question as daft as you think it will be, but they will assist you more than you realise. The amount of times I’ve been stuck or unsure of an idea and it was so easily relieved by speaking to a lecturer is a lot. As well as speaking to peers and friends, as everyone has an experience and perspective to learn from.

What was a worry you had when joining University?

My initial worries were not being able to make friends, and not following deadlines

How did you overcome this?

There was an icebreaker which I made friends through, and I slowly, and still am trying to follow self discipline for deadlines

What have you learnt as a student?

That time goes incredibly fast, so breathe, and try to enjoy every second of free time you have, and to choose your priorities carefully.

Describe University:

Inquisitive, fun and incredibly stressful.

What advice do you have for new students?

To not think too much into it (as easy as it sounds I know). Whatever you put out, you will receive, if you put yourself out there, you will make friends, and if you work for the grades, you will get them. I know it’s obvious but it generally tends to work out this way.

Describe the course you are doing:

I would describe the course as deep, thoughtful, busy, exhausting, fun, interesting, and overall heavy in terms of topics, but this does allow me to have the material to grow as a person and apply it to my writing and daily life.

How would you describe social life at University?

I struggled to begin with, but I didn’t put myself out as much. My biggest regret was not putting in the work with those around me until too much time had already passed. But social life as a whole is pretty good if you push for it.

SAM

“Make use of the student union and chat to new people or you will never build connections to help you grow creatively”

What was a worry you had when joining university?

Socialising with so many new people, working out how to manage my money and cook meals etc.

How did you overcome this?

Going to mixers and uni events made me quick and easy social situations that created friendships that have lasted throughout first year and shall continue. Still pretty bad on managing money but part of university is learning how to adapt to not having much money at all.

Describe University:

A social explosion alongside your professional and creative practice.

How much control / freedom do you have with your course?

There is definitely a lot of creative freedom in Fine Art, as you can interpret briefs however your brain sees them. However, these ideas are often shaped by lectures through crits and evaluations to better fit the standard of work for these briefs. Your work isn't insanely micromanaged.

What advice do you have for new students?

GO to the freshers events. No matter if you're anxious abt striking up a conversation with someone, there will be someone in such a diverse group of uni students that will want to talk to you because everyone is in the same boat.

Were fresher events helpful?

They were just simple social events with not too much thinking needed beforehand, made it very easy to be comfortable talking to new people.

What's your favourite thing about University?

Socialising with the friends I've made in a creative space.

How would you describe social life in University?

Interconnected, close, you make friends and acquaintances practically everywhere.

Malachey

“Enjoy YOUR ride”

What was a worry you had when joining university?

Of course, suffering from mental health as it was anyway, Uni was a big step for me, taking those initial steps for my future was majorly anxiety inducing! Alongside life in general, I felt immense pressure in taking my first real steps towards the art world, especially in the form of education. But adding this with meeting so many new people, being in such a different environment was horrifying to say the least!

How did you overcome this?

I just dove headfirst in, I tried socialising, I tried to actually learn as well as asking questions constantly. I had fun whilst learning how to deal with this new environment, course work and the overall difficulties of everything. It was a lot, but I put my head down and learnt to let go.

How did university guide you to your friendships?

I met a lot of cool people just while roaming through the uni, even when just standing in line at the cafeteria, people do speak to you and vice versa, everyone is super friendly so it's hard not to make friends! But the engagement with my peers during lectures, etc, or when we have collaborative work and discussions you really tens to bounce off one another finding similar interests etc

Describe University:

A groovy, nonjudgmental, discipline fulfilled environment. Filled with some of the best facilities a multi-disciplinary artist could ask for!

Is there opportunities in University to help you grow?

Oh definitely! My lecturers alone have taught me a lot. Not only about myself but my creativity and style too. I think just being at the uni and touching your toes in everything you can itself allows you to find your own way to grow. Each person we talk to or workshop we may do teaches us another, maybe minuscule, skill or lesson to grow from

Is there something you believe Universities do well to help studnets?

Allowing them to have a voice, given them some control too, but also to all be treated fairly no matter our differences, I have a lot of health conditions and I feel as though the university has really catered to me and my needs in that regard, it all allows for comfort which in turn means we can be ourselves which is so important today!

What advice do you have for new students?

Use that fear, worry, whatever it may be as a way to just jump in head first, soon after walking around the university alone, you'll soon realise you fit in pretty well here, no matter who you are, trust me!



Is being a student worth it?

After seeing all information shown throughout this Issue, is being a student worth it?

The answer will never be as simple as yes or no. As shown from the current students answering questions previously, it does come down to how you want to progress and how much you want to put into the life of student.

As you saw from the questions, each student had some form of worry about friendships and socialising. BUT, the data showed that 100% of the people who took part, went into university without friends and have now got friends that they socialise, work and help each other with.

The fears and worries you get when first going to university just comes with being a student. As you progress through those first couple of introductory stages when you first start attending university, you will soon realise that everyone on your course, at the least, is here for the same interest. From that, most friendships begin.

Being able to have a friend(s), is a positive step into having a positive experience at university. This can allow easier times with studying and doing any projects. It provides space to talk about everything and can be a good way to have help and guidance through each others experiences.

Socialising is a massive part of life as a student and is a great way to have times to decompress when things may feel too much. As mentioned by other students, universities themselves also have great ways to help out in stressful times. If you are ever stuck, ask your lecturers and student support system.

As shown by the answers by students, there are so many opportunities to be creative and free as students. Being a student allows you to find yourself in so many ways. All you have to do is be yourself and be open to what you are wanting to gain from university.

University is a great way to have that freedom to grow and learn, so if you are willing to just be yourself and open then YES being a student is worth it!

Evie Rooke

I've been photographing for around five years now but it's only in the last year I've been able to further develop my photography skills by studying it at an arts university. It took me bouncing around from course to course and discovering myself to figure it out, but I live to photograph; there's nothing I'd rather be doing in life.

Shot on black and white 35mm film and then developed by myself, the images here are a part of my series "The Alternative" which focuses on how people express their individuality in a world that expects us to conform. In my work I love to focus on the natural beauty that can be found all around us, and within us. Now entering my second year of university I'm looking forward to developing my work further and exploring more of the world with my newfound skills, and in the future I'm aspiring to break into photojournalism.



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Malachey Lovelace-James

A multi-disciplinary artist based in Devon, this piece “It’s a Dying World”, is one of many pieces amongst a series of ongoing found objects/materials repurposed into something much more. Where I work closely with waste removal company ‘Ark South’ to restore people in need, previous, memory filled, found materials, objects, etc, into a woven intricate story through my own experience with these vulnerable individuals when working with them. The beginning of a future to help those in need.

Evie Miller

I am 20 years old and I study photography at Arts University Plymouth (AUP). My specialities are concert and music photography, alongside landscape photography and fashion. My photography journey started at 16 when I was studying fashion textiles and graphic design at Exeter College.

During my A-levels, I primarily focused on fashion photography. working with textiles students and graphic design students. through this, I learned how to use adobe photoshop and light-room.

When I started my degree here at AUP, my projects focused on music and concert photography. I went on tour with a few small indie bands such as The Kabins and 3 Days of Wonder. I also worked within the studio to create promotional content for the bands social media pages and websites.

For future projects, I would like to work on filming concerts as well as getting more creative with my photography by broadening my graphic design skills on adobe photoshop and indesign.

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REVAMP + GALLERY

Every Issue will feature spare
photos that have yet to be
showcased















What's Next?

Issue 2: SKATEBOARDING

**OPEN CALL
SOON**

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