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Transcript

INTRO: Millie

Welcome to Find Your Uni. Today I'm joined by Callum and Anna, who are both students who've just started at Edinburgh.

Callum

Yeah. Hello. I'm Callum. I'm studying Acting and English. I'm from the Scottish Borders in Galashiels and yeah, it's my first year here.

Anna

Hello, my name is Anna. I'm from Ukraine and I do study Mass Communication, second year, but my first year at Napier.

Millie

So thanks for being here guys. And today we're going to discuss getting settled into life in Napier and how you decided that Napier was the right uni for you. So first of all. How are the first few months going? How are you finding it?

Callum

I would say I'm really enjoying it. Umm, I wasn't expecting to enjoy it as much, and I think it's a good distance from home for me. It's enough to be independent, but also not enough so that I'm tempted to just pop back home every weekend. So I'd say I'm enjoying it.

Anna

Yeah. For me, the first couple of months goes pretty well because I'm with my sister here, so she helped me a lot. The uni experience is very nice cause I was studying in Ukraine before and I did have completely different experience because it's a completely different educational system, so everything is very new to me. So yeah, but I do enjoy the course and like the people here.

Millie

And Callum, are you at student accommodation?

Callum

Yeah, I'm at Bainfield. It took a wee bit to get settled into. I'm like now referring to it as home so, and my flatmates are nice. We're mostly pretty civilised, so I'm grateful for that. But also, you know, having my own responsibility with my room and stuff and also my mum FaceTimes me to keep me right. So no, it's going well.

Millie

And how has it been making friends and things like that?

Anna

I thought I would be very shy to meet new people. But as it turned out, I'm not very shy to come up and speak first. So yeah, I just attended different events at the beginning like induction course, freshman week. So, I met a lot of people. Also I joined the tennis society, so I met some people there.

Callum

I think the societies and just all the welcome events, those really did help, and because there's really something for everyone. I think there was a speed friending one, so you just come along and make friends as fast as possible. And it sounds quite weird and not very friendly at all, but it does help, yeah.

Millie

Yeah.

Callum

I think just being in the same class as everybody else and wanting to do the same thing has really helped with making friends. It's like, OK, I'm going to be with you guys for the next 4 years. Not that I don't want to, but I kind of have to make friends with, you know, we're all the same boat, but might as well make it a fun boat, but yeah, party!

Millie

That's the main thing. Yeah. Anna?

Anna

Yeah. I met friends during the freshman week. Yeah, I went to different events. There was, like, Business School. Some, some sport kinds of events. The, the job fair. I think so you can also go there and meet some friends who are interested in, like, in working, you know? With the same experience.

Millie

And looking back now on your first day, was there anything that stands out to you? Anything funny from that, anything unique about the first day?

Callum

I think it was just discovering that, like we are all classmates we're all working together. So yeah, there's no point in like distancing yourself or like, feeling left out. I think very quickly we're all like, OK, we're all quite nervous about our first day and then that's eliminates it all. Still, I remember just meeting everyone, and that realisation that, OK, like we're sticking together, this is nice. I think that was the biggest part of the first day.

Millie

What about you?

Anna

Yeah. Yeah. My first day was the induction lecture and I was not that nervous, but still you, that's the first time when you see your classmates. And also there were people who were like second year entry. So you know as far as they and you, and you and you, try to group together so obviously.

Millie

So obviously, you've gone straight into second year and a lot of people in your class are second years, you know, they've had that first year. Is that difficult to be sort of like a new student in a second year class?

Anna

I think it depends on how sociable you are. I'm like pretty open to people and it's good that people in the class are also open to you in their group so that was very like, I think easy for me because the students were very nice.

Millie

You know, the thing about the first day is everybody is in the same boat. So, you know, it's a good time to kind of, like, speak to people because everyone wants to make friends and everybody wants to talk to each other. That's probably the prime time. And so what kind of things have you got up to your friends, anything in particular that you enjoyed?

Callum

As we do like a good movie night in, so a few times will change whose accommodation we go to. I think most of us are in Bainfield. So there is that sense of like oh, we can just

go in and visit. But I think also just because we're so central, it is quite easy to just get around in Edinburgh.

Millie

Yeah, yeah, the buses are pretty good.

Callum

Yeah, they're a lot better than where I come from so.

Millie

Yeah, did the city itself have any impact on your decision, you know?

Callum

I think so. Yeah. Oh, for me, it was the first time that I was living on my own. I'd also considered Uni in Glasgow, but I feel like Edinburgh definitely felt more welcoming, so I wanted to work here more.

Anna

Yeah, I was living in Dundee at that time, so I just wanted to go into a bigger city. So definitely I wanted to choose either Edinburgh or Glasgow or just a city that was bigger. And also Edinburgh is a very good like nature city, I would say, it's not so busy and the nature just compensates for the hustle and bustle, and you don't feel like overwhelmed in the city.

Millie

You kind of have everything like I was thinking about this the other day. Like you have. Obviously you've got the beach, which I always forget about. Portobello Beach is there and the whole coast.

Callum and Anna

Yeah.

Millie

Like you've got the countryside and then you've got the city. And I think everything is kind of in one place, almost. The Glaswegians are going to hate you, by the way, if there's any that are watching this haha.

Callum

Yeah. And half my family is Glaswegian, I want to make that very clear. So that's fine.

Millie

OK. It feels kind of, it's walkable. For me, it's walkable, you know, and especially the campus like we're, what, 15 minutes into town. It's manageable for a first year, you know especially if you've come from somewhere else. Like you were saying you're from the borders, I don't know whether the place you're from is quite small.

Callum

Oh yeah. For the borders, it's quite big but it's not...yeah it's a town

Millie

It's not a city.

Anna

Yeah, I'm from the small city in Ukraine, so for me, like Edinburgh, it's not like very very big. Still, it's a big city and it's the capital, so there a lot of events happening here.

Millie

That was another thing, so obviously I feel like it's small in a way, but there's a lot going on.

Callum

I like Edinburgh because it feels like a very touristy place and because I don't, I didn't really come up here often like I'd only come up here for a day and I'd not really stayed in Edinburgh, I wasn't super familiar with it, just because I would usually come up to Edinburgh for like Lane 7, for like escape rooms and stuff like that. It's nice doing like oh, they're just a walk away so everyone wants to meet up with friends and do that. I'm like, I live here.

Millie

It's a novelty, yeah.

Anna

As I say, you feel like a tourist sometimes. If there is a guide, you just, yeah, and listen to what he says.

Millie

I mean, I've been here for a year now, but I'm still like taking pictures everywhere I go. I think I have the same pictures of like, 5 pictures of everything. Like it never gets old. I don't know about for you, Anna?

Anna

But it's also like, that you can do hiking in the city because there is like Arthur's Seat. You can go one day there.

Callum

Yes, there is. Have you been up Arthur's yet?

Anna

Yeah.

Callum

Right. How many times have you been?

Anna

Once

Callum

Because apparently you have to go up an odd amount of times, otherwise you fail everything.

Millie

Wait, what?

Callum

Oh, how many times have you been up?

Millie

Uh, twice

Callum

Not looking good, it has to be an odd number.

Millie

Oh, an odd number! OK, well, one of them, we, I was with my mum and my brother and we got probably, like, 10 minutes up. And they were like, let's just go now. So does that even count?

Callum

OK, 1 1/2. Is that an odd number? 1.5.

Millie

Yeah that's odd

Callum

Yeah, that's fair. I think you should pass for that. Yeah, no.

Millie

Thank you.

Millie

Do you feel like it's a safe place to live? What's been your experience with that?

Anna

I would say yes because like, I live like 15 minutes from the university, from Merchiston. So it's like a pretty safe area outside.

Callum

I think just being in student accommodation makes it feel a bit safer.

Millie

You've got security there, haven't you?

Callum

Yeah. Yeah, exactly. Yeah, it's not dangerous, but there are things you have to be aware of.

Millie

Yeah, obviously, it's a city. Yeah, I mean for me, I have always felt quite strongly towards it's a really safe city like, but I mean obviously you've got to be careful with a city and it's the capital.

Callum

Yeah, yeah, I think because the nightlife is such a big thing here, like people are just walking, like when you're walking.

Millie

Yeah, that's the thing.

Callum

Like at 3 in the morning.

Millie

Yeah, when people are walking home with you, there basically a massive crowd of people. You'll just see a bunch of other people.

Millie

So what is your kind of favourite spot in Edinburgh?

Anna

I think The Meadows. I'm very, like, nature

Callum

I was going to say the same thing

Millie

Yeah, I was going to say the same thing as well.

Anna

It's like you can see people, something going on. You're in the city centre basically. Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

Millie

Anywhere else for you, Anna?

Anna

I think museums, cause they are free in Scotland. So, like, even international students, they can go there, like everybody can go so sometimes they can go to a gallery or something like this.

Millie

Also, like Old Town in general is really nice. I don't know. I mean that's where they have like lots of cute little cafes and coffee shops and stuff.

Millie

So have you guys found the transition from high school or college? Have you had any surprises? How has that been?

Callum

I think just the idea of like having a balance more of student life and also life-life if that makes sense like accommodation, looking after yourself. I've enjoyed that balance. It wasn't something that I thought I'd be good at so that was quite surprising, having my own place to stay and to look after and stuff like that. It's been a big jump for me personally, just how to clean and stuff like, just simple things like what food to make, how to plan, budgeting, stuff like that. With student accommodation being so close, that's really helped with that transition.

Millie

In terms of the transition in, like in your courses, is it harder in a way? I mean obviously it's more advanced at uni, but compared to college or high school, have you found that challenging?

Callum

Yeah, I think it's a good challenge though, because obviously in high school, you're sort of, some subjects, you're kind of forced to take because you need to, like, fill out your timetable. So, because I chose to study Acting and English, it's good to be more challenging just that, because it's like, oh, I'm choosing to do this instead of why am I doing this? Get out here. So, I enjoy like the more in depth studying.

Anna

For me? Yeah. For me, like at school, my teachers were also preparing me for the uni cause. I was writing scientific works.

Millie

Yeah.

Anna

But here when I entered as a foreigner, it's maybe like a challenge to write a lot in English, so yeah, that's what I think is important to mention.

Millie

Yeah. And in terms of having your own responsibility, like for independent study and things like that. Is that harder? Motivating yourself with no one really kind of tell you?

Callum

I think sometimes yes, but there are also lots of things available to help with that. And we had a guest lecture on procrastination and stuff, and just like mental health and help with that because just like hearing that that was a universal problem was just so comforting, and I was like, OK, I don't have to get stressed out about this. You know, other people go through it, too. So just hearing that was very nice. And that give me enough motivation to be like OK, maybe I can do something about that for me.

Anna

For me, like I was surprised that we have two days of studying.

Millie

Yeah

Anna

And all of the rest, all the time, you need to just force yourself to study because you're on campus like 2 days and you have free time. So basically you need to have time management skills to learn how to use the time for study, not for partying, or something else.

Millie

It's all about balance, I think.

Anna

Yeah, but now like, I understand that you also have time for working, like for more balance. I think, although still I miss maybe more studying on campus, being on campus. But we can still come to library if you miss it.

Millie

Yeah. I mean, even friends that are at different unis, sometimes they are at uni five days a week, I'm two days a week as well but in some ways I quite like that because it means you can kind of you know, do your own independent study. But you're right, it is a bit of a shock because you're like, I've come all this way for uni and I'm only in two days a week.

Callum

It's really interesting seeing like how often other people work. So I'm in four days a week and then I've got a flatmate that's only in 2 days a week, but it's like proper shifts, so like it does get all out of the way in one day. I don't know if you're the same, but I think it's up to preference really. I think I prefer to be in four short days than two.

Millie

Hmm. Yeah. So you're in four short days rather than.

Callum

Yeah, pretty short. Yeah, especially compared like, I'll complain about a one hour lecture and they'll come back after like a six hour day and I'll be like, OK.

Millie

Yeah, I don't remember how I used to do it in school when you'd have like 6 hour days back to back.

Callum

Oh yeah.

Millie

Do you guys feel like you can reach out to your lecturers or ask some questions if you're ever unsure about things?

Callum

Definitely. They're all very lovely. They're like almost, haha it seems, kind of sad. Like they're like, 'oh, please, guys, please contact me'. Like I'm sure they have other people to talk to, but they are obviously very glad to offer us help and stuff. I think just the idea that we're taking charge of our own studying stuff and actually reaching out, they really appreciate that and they're just nice people to talk to. I'd say so. I'd email them just for a chat, even if it wasn't just to do with study.

Anna

Yes, yeah. Same with me. Like, if you're have any stupid questions, but they're not always stupid questions. No stupid questions here! So, they also answer all of my questions, and I think they're very happy when we ask them something.

Millie

Yeah. I feel like even the difference between your teachers at school and lecturers is quite a big jump. Like, that was the one thing that really kind of like, set me up for a goodyear was the lecturers. A lot of them are really funny as well, like they are actually really funny.

Callum

I know. Yeah. Yeah. I'm like, you're teaching something else right now. I'm very happy with all my like. Cos, you know, in high school you have that one teacher. It's like, oh, I like the subject, but you're annoying. But I think being here, all of the lectures know what they're talking about. It feels like they respect us, and they're honest with us. So across the board, I'm very happy with that.

And also just like the welcome team in general for Napier. Like they're still positioned about, like the campus and stuff. We still see them and they're often like happy to help help. They're happy to give directions, so it's very nice to see them around and know, OK you know, there's nice people here, so that is very reassuring. Yeah.

Millie

Yeah. All the lectures you see around are usually, you know, teaching the subjects that you enjoy. You kind of really get a vibe. I remember that from first year as well, like because you have different modules. I don't know about you guys but you have different teachers for, you know, each one, you have like, how many lectures would you have like per term, like 3 or something?

Callum

Yeah, I think 4, yeah.

Millie

Four. And then it kind of maybe switches again in the next new year. So you sort of really quickly meet a lot of your lecturers and then you might have them in second year. I know this year I've got some of the same ones I had last year and you kind of start to build a relationship with them.

Callum

Yeah, I went to, I think it was like an English social event thing. And we sort of meet some of the English teachers that we will have in the future. And that made me excited because a lot of them seemed also very cool.

Millie

Yeah, they're kind of cool. Aren't they?

Callum

Yeah, no

Millie

Like, it's like. And a lot of them have really good experience in the industry.

Callum

And like I'd always hear from other students 'Oh, you're gonna want to wait until you get to this lecture, and you're like, OK I will!

Millie

That's kind of the most exciting part of it in a way, because you really want to learn from these people that know so much about the course you're taking. On my first day or my induction, we had like all of our lecturers like sat out in front of us like an interview and when we would ask them questions about, you know, interviews they've done with people. A lot of them had interviewed a lot of celebrities. It was a really fun way to kind of, like, meet all your lectures and ask them questions instead of the other way around, which was a really good introduction.

Millie

But is there anyone in particular that you've bonded with? Any lecturers or anything like that?

Callum

Can I say their name? OK, shout out to Tara Thompson, then. She is my English lecturer on Fridays and she also does my tutorials and she's just got like such passion. Like, I don't know, it's very endearing and makes you want to listen, and it makes me want to talk in class, which I didn't expect either. But like every answer that I give, even if it's the worst answer in the world, doesn't make sense, she'll always go, 'that's such an interesting response', and I'll be, thank you, it was!

Anna

For me, it's my cultural diversity and marginalised voices lecturer, Ivana. She's very kind and I think she's encouraging people. She's just very expressive. She's from Brazil and she's like, always, you know, very expressive. And you just have a desire and passion to come to her lectures.

Millie

So do you guys have a favourite spot on campus yet?

Callum

For me, I say the library just because I think it kind of forces you to study because everybody else is being so studious.

Millie

Yeah

Callum

I think sometimes I've done the most work there than I've ever done my entire life just because of how quiet it is

Millie

Quiet, yeah

Callum

So, it's like, right, I'm focusing there. So that's nice that there's a place that you can kind of force yourself to do work, because I struggle with that.

Millie

Yeah

Anna

Yes, the same as Callum says, it's the library because it's like the place. Also, for me it's just to chat. You just come into library and you, you just stumble on different people and yeah, you can just stay focused. And also the library is very like, bright colours, so

philosophical, but maybe a gloomy days of Scotland. You just sit in the bright library. Yeah it's very nice.

Millie

Yeah, very. I was gonna say the library is very good and I think it's cause obviously we have the Kilby Centre. Have you guys been there?

Anna

Yeah, but I think it's more it's...

Millie

I don't know, it, sometimes it can be overwhelming because there's so many people working. But the libraries have been more quiet and, you know the booths that they have, you can kind of sit away in the booths like that. I enjoy that.

Callum

The ability to be able to like, book our own rooms and be like, OK, I'm going to be in here from this time to this time, and like to set up your own independent study. I think that's very helpful, especially compared to high school where it was like, sort of have to do stuff outside of class and there's not really many rooms available.

Millie

I also feel like, you know the lecture halls. That was something I was really looking forward to in a way, like to have lecture halls rather than a classroom because obviously in school, there's classrooms, I find it easier to kind of, like, learn in a way, or at least I want to more, yeah.

Callum

Yeah, it does motivate me because I'm like, oh, this is just like in the movies.

Millie

Yeah, exactly!

Callum

And like, I feel like a proper uni student. Like, even if I'm not even writing anything good in my notebooks, I'm like, I've got a notebook and I'm writing in it.

Millie

Yeah. Literally like, yeah.

Callum

It just feels fun. It encourages me to learn, which is good for uni.

Millie

So we're going to move on now to the application process. How did you guys find that Napier was the right uni for you? How did you go about that?

Callum

I think just the course that offered Acting and English appeal to me a lot. I wasn't quite sure if I wanted to go down more like the writing route of things or the acting route, so the fact that offered both in one course was pretty ideal for me. And also I'm quite lucky my Mum's a pastoral teacher, so she was able to help me a lot. One of our students took the course in the year above. I got like feedback from her and apparently she said it was quite good. So I was like 'OK, I might try out then' and I'm actually working with that same student now because the Year 2's are directing the Year 1's. It's all come full circle so.

Anna

Yeah, I have an interesting story because I was applying for Interior Design and then I switched to Mass Comms because I attended the Offer Holder Day and right after I messaged like, emailed Napier Uni, if I can switch my major. Because I thought like I wanted something else to study.

Millie

Yeah.

Anna

And I had applied for interior design, but then I understood that, probably I needed to go back to my major that I learned previously. And they just message and they took me for the second year, to Mass Comms.

Millie

Did you guys read any kind of reviews about the uni or anything like that or did you kind of go into it blindly in that sense?

Callum

I had a look on UCAS and I read a lot of stuff on there and it did say it was one of the best acting courses, so I was like, OK, that pretty good then. And also the offer holders day. I went along to that. Yeah, quite a lot of good reviews, I'd say.

Anna

Then I attended the Offer Holder Day and then after the Interior Design induction lecture I decided to come up to the lecturer of Mass Communication where I wanted to change the major, and she gave me, like, the programme and I looked up at the subjects and I

decided like, this is what I want to study. Later on, I just read some reviews on like websites.

Millie

Yeah.

Anna

And read also the programme and what's going to be in the fourth year.

Millie

Yeah.

Anna

If we have the placement year and then I decided, yeah, why not try?

Millie

Yeah, I think it's hard to kind of know what uni is or which course is the best for you. But for me it was reading the module information and seeing if that's the kind of thing you do want to go into or want to learning about. And also like student satisfaction rates and stuff like that, obviously they're not always accurate, but it gives you a good sense of kind of what students think about the uni, which is always good.

Millie

So you both mentioned Offer Holders Day. Tell us a bit more about that.

Callum

Yeah. So I came into like the acting studio, so it was a good thing to see, like where we're going to be working if we were to take it. And they had two students from the previous year that just graduated, they had them talking. The lecturers talked as well, so it's good to hear from both sides of the story, so, you know, it wasn't biased like, oh, 'we're such good teachers', you know, we did actually hear from people who they taught. And yeah, they sort of just gave an overview of the next four years, what it would hold for us. And that was very reassuring because, you know, obviously it's quite a big transition and we're, you know, paying to study here. So just knowing what we'd be doing was like a big relief. Yeah, I think just getting to see what the lectures were like was the main thing and they have stayed true to that, so they weren't, you know, putting on this guise. So that's nice.

Anna

Yeah. Also, as Callum mentioned, the overview of modules. I went to the interior design induction course because I applied initially for that, so they showed us like what we

were going to be doing throughout the next four years, but also what helped me a lot is like they did like a Campus Tour. They introduced the facilities. So, when I came here on the first day I already knew where I needed to go, where the computers are. And they told us, like there is the reception, you can go there if you have questions. And they also brought us to the student accommodation and we want to see the Bainfield student accommodation, so we could have a look at where the students live.

Millie

And how does your first impression of Napier from the Offer Holders Day compare to now. Is it the same? You were kind of saying it was a good impression.

Callum

Yeah, I would say the lecturers were sort of very upfront and like 'this is what it's going to be like'. This is like, they were just themselves, like this is what I'm like. So yeah, I would say just knowing that we weren't being lured into it and it was like, 'this is what you're going to get into if it's for you, great, if not'.

Millie

Yeah, you get what you see. Yeah, Offer Holders Day is more about the course, is that right?

Callum

Yeah.

Millie

It's a really good way to kind of see what you're getting into, meet your lecturers is the main thing about it.

Anna

And maybe meet your future mates.

Millie

Yeah, yeah.

Anna

People you might study with.

Millie

You were saying, you know, you changed your course from wanting to do Interior Design to Mass Communications and it was a helpful way to see that that's what you wanted to do.

Millie

So did anyone come with you guys to offer holders day and what did they think about it if they did?

Callum

Yeah, both of my parents came to Offer Holders Day and they both seemed pretty content with it as well. It's quite easy to tell what my mum isn't happy with something cause, you know, she purses her lips, and you know, she lets you know that oh, this isn't for you. But she was like, 'oh, you know, Callum'. So yeah, I think that was very reassuring, because even she was like, 'OK, this is, you know, even I see that this will be good for him'. I assume they're both also reassured because I hope they'll be like a little bit worried about me.

Millie

Yeah haha

Callum

I think it was good for me and for them that they came along so.

Anna

Yeah, I decided to go on my own, just because you have no pressure and you have time to think. And if you are with someone, you are just, you know, going around with them. You feel very comfortable. But when you are on your own, you can just go and need to talk to people because you are by yourself.

Millie

Yeah

Anna

So you can learn more and find new people I think that's a good way to go when you go alone.

Millie

I mean, it's good either way like. Some people having their parents there is useful to them, but other people if you can't, or if you don't, you know sometimes your opinion can get swayed or it's good to, you know, step out of your comfort zone and do things by yourself.

Anna

I just, yeah, I know myself, so I decided that

Millie

Yeah it's your decision clear at the end of the day.

Millie

So after the Offer Holders Day, did you know you were going to come to Napier straight away or?

Callum

I was quite certain. Yeah, it was the first one that I went to and afterwards I was like, not discouraged from going to the other ones, but I was like, OK, yeah, this is a high bar because obviously no matter how sure you are, obviously it's quite a big jump. So just having been here, it was going to be like, it was a lot easier to be like, OK, accept that and get over with and I'm glad I did, yeah.

Millie

How did you find out about Offer Holder Day?

Callum

OK, I'm bringing her up a lot, but my mum.

Millie

Hahaha yeah

Callum

But also again I had heard from one of our previous students that it was a good opportunity, and that sort of enticed me because I was like, OK, I'll give it a chance. I guess the main thing to take away from that is just have a look around for opportunities and stuff. What you can do to sort of ease yourself about where you're going, what could potentially do. So yeah, pastoral teachers or just looking online for yourself. You know how it works.

Anna

I think I got an e-mail. Yeah, because I didn't know that such days even exist. Like for Offer Holder Day, not an Open Day. So, I got an e-mail and then I booked the spot, just five hours before the event because.

Millie

I think I'm it's important to check the website and things like that because you do miss these things. You know, like it's easy to not know that these things even exist, although they're happening without going to an Offer Holder Date, how will you know it's the right

uni for you? You know, it's kind of like that is the way you're going to find out by being in the uni, speaking to the lecturers and walking around.

Anna

Because I think if I had not attended the Offer Holder Day, I would not probably be studying Mass Communication.

Millie

Yeah, exactly.

Anna

Yeah, I think what changed.

Millie

Going back to kind of when you're applying to uni, what advice would you give to people who are in that process?

Anna

I think you need to know the certain deadlines. You need to know if you got accepted or if you are not accepted. What are the other dates to apply? Also know the resources because UCAS offers lots of tips on how to write your personal statement and Napier University also offers that and I used that information for writing mine. And a lot of free YouTube videos about the application process, so you can use that like reference.

Callum

Yeah, just going on with the deadlines thing, just like getting on top of, you know, knowing where you have to submit things by and having your personal statements ready. I know that for my course, I had to have a videotape audition. I think I submitted it 11 minutes before the deadline.

Millie

Ahh, cutting it close

Callum

But just because, yeah, I like to procrastinate.

Millie

Well you're here so, so it obviously worked

Callum

But don't do it. It was very stressful.

Millie

Yeah

Callum

But like, just knowing what was expected of me and then getting it out earlier would have been a much preferable choice for me. Had it been 10 minutes later, I, like, wouldn't have submitted in time. I wouldn't be here this year, which is quite crazy to think about it. So like, not to stress anyone out, but it's like a very important decision. So that should motivate you in wanting to look into the things that you'll need to do for the course, things that, you know, you need to submit by so.

Millie

Yeah. Did you have any kind of support writing your personal statement?

Callum

Yes for with like pastoral teachers and stuff, but like they were happy to read over draughts and stuff because obviously like they want the best for us as well. So I guess I would go for anyone, like most people have a pastoral teacher, don't be afraid to reach out to them, ask for any help and just, really do anything you can add to your personal statement like even small things like helping out, wee, like, volunteering things. Just get on top of things early so that you give yourself the best chance later on.

Anna

I also submitted my application, I think it was 2 hours before the deadline, so I don't recommend anybody to do that.

Millie

No! Also, technology can fail like yeah.

Millie

So what has been your experience so far as a Napier student?

Callum

I think because Napier is just less in your face, it just felt more like come along, study what you want to study.

Millie

Yeah, like we're here to teach you

Callum

And you're here to learn. I think that aspect of it and just knowing like, students that have been there before and that they were just having a nice time and every once in a while, I'd see like their posts and stuff like them out with their friends, and then like in the library studying. I'm like, 'OK, that seems quite nice actually'. And like casual university, but it's still university. It's nice. It feels like each campus has like a slight different vibe, and so being at Merchiston, it feels like a different community. It's a lot more casual. I mean, as we can tell, You're, you both are dressed up quite nice. OK, maybe I just feel casual.

Millie

Well, obviously this is the kind of like creative department. It's good in the way that they have 3 campuses because you're with people who are like you.

Anna

Who are the same.

Millie

Yeah. Like minded people, creative.

Callum

It's like a different community for each one, and I was saying as well, you can see people with like, you know, crazy hair colours and eye makeup and stuff and it's like, OK, this is cool. Like, I felt like we're in a film almost, because I was like, oh, like, people go out and, like, they're so unique and they look like that, it's so cool.

Anna

Yeah, yeah, also when you said that you feel like that in a film. You know, like those American films where students go around the campus.

Millie

Yeah!

Anna

And it's very bright and also it's like, you are among the creative people and you're doing the same stuff like.

Millie

And there's always something going on?

Callum

Yeah.

It does feel very casual in the sense that, like I could talk to anyone. Like I think for some rehearsals, the people I was rehearsing with, they just brought in like a friend they'd made along the way. And they're like, 'oh, they want to watch our rehearsal' and we're like, 'OK, cool!'

Millie

Sure!

Callum

And they're just sat there, they watched, and they were like 'thanks, cool. Also, what's your name?'.

Millie

Yeah! The atmosphere is definitely friendly as well. You know, like it feels like you can kind of talk to anyone. It's not nerve wracking, like it's such a nerve wracking thing going to uni it's such a jump from school. But the campus being... all the campuses, really. Being so friendly and casual in a way as well made it, kind of, the transition really easy and I think in terms of like, outside of the uni as well like being a Napier student in Edinburgh in general, it's kind of cool. Like I do think it's it's a good uni and it's like pretty well respected as well.

Callum

Yeah

Millie

And there's a lot of things, you know, the sports outside the uni and clubs and things. I just think it's quite a, from my experience of like going out and things like, that like I feel like quite proud to say I'm a Napier student.

Callum

Yeah, I know what you mean because like I see those advertisements that are like, 'oh, Edinburgh Napier, the heart of Edinburgh', stuff like that. I'm like, you know what? I am the heart of Edinburgh!

Millie

Yeah, that's what it feels like, but I think it was.

Callum

We run the city!

Millie

Yeah. It was rated like, the top modern university in Scotland as well. Like, I'm proud to say that I'm a Napier student for sure.

Millie

So for you guys, how do you find the resources for career support and finding jobs and things like that?

Callum

I've been made very aware of like the resources that are available, I've heard good things, and they do seem very friendly. I think in the Induction Week so like right off the bat, they made clear you can come and talk to like the finance team, so if you're having any money problems, if you want any advice. Like they understand how student life is, as that was reassuring to know.

Anna

I don't work at the moment, but I was looking for a job and I think there is My Future. That's the platform for looking for jobs through the Napier website. And also I wanted to apply for an internship separately and I contacted the funding department and asked if they can cover like costs. So you can also try to e-mail the funding department to find out if they can cover your costs like for commuting or stuff.

Millie

I think as well. I don't know how much you guys check your emails, but there is a lot of information. The other day, my course had a careers meeting. It wasn't compulsory, but I think, you know, it was free and it was really useful and you just have to check your emails because things like that pop up all the time and they're like, they want you to do it. They're like, you know, we've got this careers meeting.

Callum

As part of my course, yeah, I think, later on the module, actually or later on in the years they tell you, just like advice for what it's going to be like to be an actor in the industry, like going into this field of work. So, they do prepare for stuff like that and I assume it is the same for other courses like having meetings and stuff as well.

Millie

Yeah

Callum

So it does seem like it's not just oh, this is the fun of acting.

Millie

Yeah. They're giving you this and it's not like there's no help to get you there in the end.

Yeah, I think everything we do, you know, all of it relates to what, you know, the graduate prospects and things like that. But they do come back to that a lot, like this is how you're going to get here in the industry. It all kind of relates to that.

Anna

One of our lectures they gave us, they just sent an e-mail as the vacancy for a job and say like try this out, maybe this will work for you.

Millie

Yeah

Anna

I know some of my like IT friends also, they got the job here, like the help assistant or something. So they also have, like, in the career on campus. And the internship, I think the module structure itself, they give you the possibility to have an internship somewhere.

Millie

Yep

Callum

Yeah, that was such a big thing because I remember like one of the first weeks I got here, I got an e-mail asking if I was an acting student and I was like 'OK yes'. And then after that, every week I'm just getting like a bunch of things like, oh, film casting for this, last minute film student needed this. So it seems like, yeah, they do a lot in preparing what it's going to be like.

Millie

So many events and things as well. They had a career fair thing where they gave. I can't remember what it was.

Anna

I've been there, the job fair?

Millie

The job fair. Oh, that was it. Yeah.

Anna

Yeah, I attended that one. So there are, like, different stands with different companies.

Millie

Yeah.

Anna

And you just put your emails or number.

Millie

That was it, yeah, yeah.

Anna

And they can call you or you can call them. Send your CV. And like volunteering is also experience if you want, you can join there.

Millie

Yeah, a lot of things available.

Millie

And finally, if you could go back in time and give yourself some advice, what would you say?

Callum

I think I would tell myself just to not close myself like off from any opportunities or anything like that. I think I was quite nervous. But then obviously when university rolled around, just going for it really, like this could be the next four years of my life. So I shouldn't really worry about what first impressions are then like, obviously they're important. But like you're going to have to work together anyway, going to get into it and you might as well make the most of it. So I think just open yourself up, not being scared.

Millie

Anna, what advice would you give yourself?

Anna

I think, be more confident in my decisions because it's ended up that I switched my major. I could be more confident in deciding what I want to do. Just be confident and hang out, maybe with friends that's beyond like your major. So you could know more information. Also, I little bit regret that I did not start doing that from the scratch, like from the first yeah semester.

Millie

Yeah, I think I was gonna say the same thing. I think for me, like, I would have told myself to just go out and do those things because then, I mean, they can come to you sometimes, but they're not always going to come to you. Involve yourself in, well you don't have to, but it's good to involve yourself in the uni. It's such a good way to meet new people, societies and just clubs in general. Meeting people beforehand is such a good idea. I found my flatmates on Facebook before I went to my accommodation and just knowing their names, like all the faces of them were so, so reassuring because it's so nerve wracking when you first go and you don't even know anyone looks like. So for me it was finding those people. And getting to know them a little bit before.

Anna

Just be open to opportunities and don't be scared like I was a little bit scared of going alone. But once I've done it

Millie

Again, yeah

Anna

I already like, feel free to to do anything.

Callum

And just don't look at what could go wrong. Don't think about that. Just think about what you could miss out on if you don't do the things that you want to do.

Millie

You might regret it, yeah

Callum

Yeah, just open yourself up. Try new things. Yeah.

Millie

I think because you've already come out of your comfort zone coming to uni, that's already the first step, but you've got to keep that going like you are at uni. If you don't continue to make those jumps, you're going to end up like, probably not enjoying it as much. You still need to everyday make jumps to come out of your comfort zone and meet new people, like it's going to it's going to pay off. What I would say as well is if first year or first term isn't going how you plan for it to, don't panic because everything, I mean to you guys as well. Like everything changes if it's not how you imagined uni to be at first term or first day, so much can change. You can make new friends or you can join societies at any point. In first year, especially, just enjoy it because it's the most exciting year of your uni experience so far. You know, embrace it and just take it in for what it is.

OUTRO: Millie

So thank you to Callum and Anna. You've both shared very helpful tips for students who are enrolling at Edinburgh Napier. For our listeners, if you're interested in hearing more from people like Anna and Callum, who have just started, be sure to check out the Find Your Uni Podcast on the Offer Holder Hub or on Spotify.