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Transcript

Maya

Welcome to Edinburgh Napier's Find your Uni. This podcast looks at the different factors which can be important when it comes to choosing which course and which university to go to. Everyone on this podcast is a current student at Napier, so we've been in your shoes before and choosing what to do next, and we look forward to sharing our experiences and hope that it helps you in your journey.

Maya

Hey everyone, I'm Maya and I'm Lorna and we're both Mass Comms students at Edinburgh Napier. In this episode. We're talking about the student experience and whether satisfaction rates really reflect the truth of student life. We're sharing what student life looks like for us and our top tips on how to find a university where you feel you belong.

Today we're joined by Becca to share their experience at Napier.

Becca

Hi, I'm Becca and I'm a third year adult nursing student at Edinburgh Napier University.

My campus is based in Sighthill and I have been studying at Napier University since 2021.

I'm from the Republic of Ireland.

Maya

Hi there, Becca and I just want to open up by asking what does the phrase student satisfaction mean to you?

Becca

I feel like student satisfaction means that a student is happy in their environment while studying. I am quite happy in my environment because I chose to study at Napier solely for the reason that I wanted a blending learning experience.

The blended learning experience Edinburgh Napier University has to offer is that my course is 50% practical and 50% academic, which suits me a lot better than a fully practical course. Yeah, I think that students should be happy in their course rather than finding it as a chore, and that's exactly what I feel like I am enjoying this course because it is more suited to me.

It's good to have a good support system in the university and I feel like being at Napier University gives me many support opportunities such as well-being support, financial support and academic support. I've used all three of these while studying at Napier University and I have gotten very good results in terms of getting the support that I need and also feedback on my assessments. Yeah, so that's what I feel about student satisfaction, what it means to me.

Maya

Would you say overall that Napier has given you a confidence in your studies and in your path towards what you're aiming to do?

Becca

Definitely. So, Napier nursing students are offered to do clinical skills, which is in Sighthill campus, and it's basically a mock hospital. So, we can practice on patients that are designed to have a specific illness, so we could have a better understanding and knowledge of what it is actually like to be on placement to prepare us and also what it's like to become a nurse and what is going to be expected of us?

Lorna

That's really interesting. And Maya, what would you say the phrase student satisfaction means to you?

Maya

I think it's like an overall comfortability with your peers and with your environment that you're in. Again, confidence in just where you're aiming to be going as well as just like enjoyment about the kind of services and social activities that the opportunity at the university sorry can present you.

Lorna

Yeah, that's true actually. Yeah, it's all about being satisfied with, like the services that the unit gives you.

When choosing a university, what were you looking for in the student experience Becca?

Becca

So, I was looking for if I can move over because obviously, I'm from the Republic of Ireland, so I wanted to see what accommodation options there were and as soon as I got accepted it with an unconditional offer into Edinburgh Napier University, I quickly researched what accommodation is available and I found that there is a specific accommodation for nursing students in Edinburgh that were basically offered it straight away. We're kind of guaranteed it if we live overseas, so that was quite easy for me to just apply and get it, which made me a lot more comfortable going into going to study and everything.

Maya

Yeah, I'd say a big part. Like for me at least, was like the location like Edinburgh is a quite desirable city. It's very pretty, I think people would say if they were moving here.

So yeah, just knowing that the uni is easy to access, there's good bus links around the city and you still kind of get that balance between living in a city and being at uni.

Becca

Yeah, like when I moved over, I had no idea that there was such thing as a free bus pass.

Maya

Yeah.

Becca

So then somebody told me about it and I was like, what? Like I can get a free bus pass for it to, like, travel until I'm 21. Like I still have it now until I'm 22 actually, isn't it?

Maya

Yeah, I think that's such a good thing for students, especially people who aren't Scottish. The fact that you can only just need to live here.

Becca

Yeah, because I can get on a bus by mistake and that happen a lot in the first year. I'd get on a bus and I have no idea where I was going, and then I'd have no money. And then I could just get on it, for free. And it was quite good.

But yeah, I know it's it is. It's very good and then since I started university during COVID, I didn't have the chance to go over and have that open day in Napier University. So there was a like a whole, like virtual thing about it as well, which was very it was actually quite good and and obviously convinced me to move over so.

Maya

Yeah. So, what does your cash student life look like now and how do you know that in Edinburgh Napier University is right for you?

Becca

So I'm in private accommodation now, living with two Med students, and I think it's it is it's it's very nice it's. And a little bit close to the Sighthill campus. It's very accessible and I'm in university at the moment probably like once or twice a week, which is usual for me because it's a blended learning. It's a lot of independent learning. But you know it's good so far. We're just concentrating on our personal statements as all of our jobs go live on Monday, which is crazy, and then then I start placement in May. So we're also preparing for placement at the moment. Mine will be about 5 months long. Until the end of September and that will determine whether or not I will graduate. So that's exciting and kind of scary. But yeah, I know, like, my social life is still, I'm doing whole, like balanced thing still. And I've learned how to budget throughout these three years and it's been quite a big leap of independence that I took the past three years, and I wouldn't picture any other way and I would have done everything, everything the same that I've chosen so. Yeah, it's been good.

Lorna

Do you think being in Edinburgh plays a part in your social life?

Becca

Definitely, because I grew up, grew up in a very, very small village in the middle of nowhere in Ireland, and there wasn't many buses. There wasn't any way of transportation. It was very not like dull, but it was just a lot less accessible.

But then moving to Edinburgh it may like I made so many friends in first year. I've got most of them now and it's just been really it's just been really, really positive and there's really good nightlife in Edinburgh.

Yeah, I just really liked the way when we had to go into our student accommodation, we were in uh, I was in a flat with seven students and I did not know any of them. So that kind of made me make friends and become more comfortable. And then in university, like, everybody was very accepting, like all of the students were in the same place. Like there is many Irish students that come over overseas, to study nursing in particular and like we all kind of bonded through that, we were like, OK, we've got the same idea and we've got like we picked the same university in the same country. So, we must have like a good bit in common.

So, in terms of settling in, I think I've settled in quite well. And then like with my job, like I work as well, like I've made good relationships with my colleagues. I never feel completely alone or lost, which is a very, very positive thing because I don't know what I'd be.

Like I knew that Edinburgh was the right thing for me because I'm who I am right now and I'm so close to graduating and I have not had one thought for a minute that I've moved back to Ireland so. I think it was a very, very good idea for me and my student experiences.

Lorna

That's really good.

So, what are your top tips for finding a university that has the right kind of student experience for you?

Becca

My top tips are getting involved in events because it is quite a positive atmosphere. When you go into university, it is always signs up for different like committees you can join and everything. I recently went to Belfast to do a talk on what it's like moving over as an Irish student and as any other student that is international would be like. I gave the talk to secondary school students, and that was quite nice. I went with the events team and then another thing was that I look at like what the university has to offer in terms of what the course is like because as I have come to learn, many universities offer different types of nursing courses. And that's why Napier has a three-year course.

And it's more of like a blended learning and it's it really is to suit the person. But it is like I do really like the course I'm doing. And then again like I went on to the website and the websites are very accessible. If I've got a question, I can just go straight on to the website. I don't have to e-mail anybody straight away unless it's something quite complex, but it's got many, it's got many and like much information about like what you need and everything.

And then you UCAS also, you'd be also look for UCAS because they've got quite a lot of information about it as well. I don't really remember finding out about Napier. I think it could have been through research because it is not researched at all or it's it's not like advertised at all in the Republic of Ireland. So yeah, I had to research that too.

Lorna

So, say you wanted advice from someone at Napier. You don't know anyone. Like, how would you go about that?

Becca

I would go to my classes. That's one thing that I do. I definitely go to classes because like in every classroom it's very interactive. Like it's a lot of group work and it's a lot of problem finding and everything. And yeah, going to classes is definitely one of them. And another thing is there's in first year. There was social events and stuff like freshers week and everything, and that's at the very start of first year. But I think the main thing is like go to classes and look on Facebook and stuff for their group. Like there's a full group on it. I'd say there's many students thinking the same thing like 'ohh I don't have any friends and I'm scared.' There's plenty of opportunities for you to make friends.

And I feel like as a student that has been in student accommodation, it was a lot easier for me. But I'd say a student not in student accommodation. I'd say definitely, just go to classes, be in the university, even for the atmosphere. Then a lot of the time are certain groups have like group chats and stuff as well.

Maya

So yeah, I was one of those students that wasn't in student accommodation.

And I think it is just kind of making that extra effort to kind of get to know people on your course, maybe join a society. And if you're not in student accommodation, that doesn't mean you can't engage with people who are in student accommodation. I had friends who were in student accommodation and I, you know, went to Bainfield and to some of the other accommodations and still got to experience that part of student life without living there. So yeah, I think there's there's benefits to both. And I think it's about just engaging people.

Earlier you mentioned about how your course was quite different from other nursing courses. And I found that as well with mass communications, that was a big part of why I decided to study at Napier.

I think there's lots of module options and they're always really interesting and getting into these conversations with people you learn things from other people's modules. There's always, you know, somebody talking about something they've learned in a class and I think that's only a credit to like the engagement students have with the learning here at Napier.

Becca

And I feel like if it's different, it's like more appealing in a way, because I feel like, yeah, I like definitely my course is a lot more appealing than the other courses. Because I prefer blended learning experience. So I feel like that bit of different, really does improve.

Lorna

What you're saying about the engagement like, there's so many opportunities That the uni does provide. There's so many opportunities and like services and the societies and stuff like there's like for mass communications, there's radio energy and different societies. And ENSA, always have different activities for students. So like, it's really nice to be like in a degree with people that are taking all these opportunities up and stuff.

Maya

Yeah, I feel like, yeah, whatever. Your course you kind of have an opportunity to shape the way that you want to learn at Napier. By either choosing modules or engaging with different societies or picking up on, like, extracurriculars. I've found that there's always some, you know you're getting e-mail with something about an opportunity here or there and it's kind of your chance to take that and I think it's good for individualism, independence and growth as somebody who's in their late teens, maybe early 20s. Yeah. That's why I like about it.

Becca

Yeah. Like it's not easy, but it's it's like what will shape us.

Well, like I am a completely different person than I was when I moved here at first and I feel like it does shape you as a person in a very positive way to be able to go into a course that you are actually enjoying, and I think the most important thing about studying is that you're comfortable and that you are getting the support that you need if you need it and that you're enjoying it. So I feel like Napier is doing that.

Maya

What is your favourite thing about being a student at Edinburgh Napier?

Becca

My favourite thing about being a student at Edinburgh Napier is probably placement. I'm on placement a good bit of the degree and I feel like I can learn the most while I'm on placement because as I said earlier, I'm more of a visual learner. So actually being in the environment, of a clinical environment makes me learn a lot more while I'm on the job. So, ..if I do something wrong, it's just a lot better that I learn from it.

I feel I'm very satisfied and I've listened to whilst I'm on placement and I feel like the university plays a big role in that. I feel like Edinburgh Napier University really looks out for their students while they undergo this type of learning in particular, because we are out looking after real patients and they do offer support for those who may have seen something, or just being in like a traumatic environment. So yeah, I am quite satisfied with how and Edinburgh Napier University does deliver this.

Maya

Yeah, I think for myself it's just the environment. There's loads of like really nice places to study in and around the campus and just being in a good environment, I think makes you feel so much more positive. And you can really find that at Edinburgh Napier.

I think it's also just, you know, walking through the campus, the courtyard saying hi to people, you know, from different places. I think it really just uplifts you and makes you feel better about everything, including studying.

Lorna

Yeah, it's so much fun to go through like the Kilby. Like the library and just see everyone you know. And like, it's just nice to make, like small talk and stuff.

Becca, what do you think the best thing about being a student is?

Becca

I think the best part about being a student is that you're always learning. Like I know that it is the point of being a student, but I am actually learning something that I'm very interested in and I also have made, like friendships that are going to last quite a while and it just it brought me independence being a student.

And more to rely on myself rather than other people, it's just made me grow into a different but like better person. Being a student, it's also nice, like just having that like kind of umbrella over you as well, just being like you are independent. But like it's just so much easier to get support and everything and.

Yeah, it just feels all part of the community and it's just a very nice environment. When I'm in university as well

Maya

Yeah, I totally agree. I think it's a really nice kind of transitional period from being in high school, maybe having a lot of support, whether that be from parents or teachers who classes are going to all the time to go into uni you'll obviously have very supportive lecturers, but you are finding yourself as an individual, you're learning to be independent and there's a lot of power in that. I'd say for myself, that was one of my favourite things about coming to uni and being a student is just being able to kind of be in charge of my own decisions, but to still have those people that you can go to if you need anything. Yeah. It's not as scary as being, you know, an adult as people say, but it is one of the best times of your life. And you do find yourself. That's what I like about it.

Maya

Thank you all very much for listening to us today. Hope you doing something new that you weren't aware of and thank you very much, Beth, taking your time out to have a conversation with us today. Next time we're talking about the many paths to university, how to navigate them. If you're coming from college, a mature student or taking a gap year tuning to get our advice on transitioning to uni.