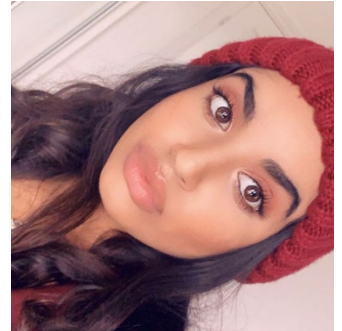




Why I chose to go into higher education – Kiran

A little bit about me

Hi! My name is Kiran and I am currently a student at The University of Leicester. I am doing a degree called Medical Biochemistry and about to start my second year. My course is 3 years long, but I can complete an extra year by doing work experience with a company or even chose to go abroad!



Why I chose to go to university

I wanted to study further, have fun and gain life experience along the way.

I chose university for many different reasons. The first simply being I wanted to learn more about subjects that interested me. From GCSE's to A-levels I always had a true passion for maths, biology and chemistry (I hated physics). I find it fascinating learning about the human body and how we work! Initially my plan was to study medicine however in the process of my A-levels, I realised that it was no longer what I wanted to do (just goes to show you can change your mind).

I am really enjoying my course and have learnt so much already and feel passionate about learning even more!

At university, they also have the equipment and resources required, which really helps when I complete practical's related to my course.

Future opportunities

Although I know I have chosen the right degree for me, I still have no idea what job/career I would like to have in the future. However, this doesn't really scare me because university has opened so many doors and shown me that I have lots of different options to explore! I have the potential to do a year in industry – which is really similar to work



experience but for a potential job in the future. My degree will allow me to study further if I wanted to, I could go into scientific research, or I could even do extra training and go into a profession such as teaching. There are so many opportunities presented to you related to your future. It is nice to know that I have so many options and that I can take my time to choose.

Social side to university

Going to university is much more than your degree. A massive aspect is the social side to university – which is another reason why I chose to study further and go to university. I have met so many people from all around England and the world.



It's amazing to talk to so many people from lots of different backgrounds. Leicester is such a multi-cultural city and I love being a part of it.

I have developed so much as a person and this has helped me to gain further important skills in life. Such as; being more confident to

talk to others!

University also offers so many societies to get involved in. They are like the clubs you have at school. Whether you want to play sport, help the environment, learn more about your religion or even to talk about food! I have always had an interest in dance, and I studied it for GCSE too. To be able to join and be part of the dance societies at university is amazing as you can choose the style you wish (from ballet to hip hop to Bollywood and bhangra), have fun, enter competitions and meet





some amazing people. Even if you've never tried something before it gets you out of your comfort zone to try new things. I think I might join a sport society just for fun (even though I am bad at sports.) There are so many social events happening throughout the year for students and there is something for everyone! I remember one evening I went to a student night out and the following day going to a coffee morning!

I have made so many new friends at University and have had many great experiences already.

Living at home

Living in Leicester and attending The University of Leicester allows me study, enjoy the social aspect university life, whilst living at home. For lots of people living away from home is part of their university experience however I wanted to let you know that it doesn't have to be. I live at home with my family and still have an amazing time. I have still made friends, met new people and attended social events. I think it's a misconception that you 'miss out' on university life if you live at home but I think it's the opposite! I still get involved and make the most of my university experience but also do not have to worry about make dinner when I get home! (A benefit of living with parents).

There are more options

University isn't the only option for higher education. If you are unsure whether university or A-levels are for you, there are so many other things you can do. For example, you can apply for an apprenticeship, or do BTEC's instead. I would recommend talking to someone like a careers advisor and consider all of your options.

Taking a Gap year after college is also a great option if you are not sure what you want to study at University or just want a break from studies.

Advice

If I could give any advice it would be firstly to choose your GCSE/A-level subjects based on what you enjoy learning about. This will make it more enjoyable for you to study and keep you motivated. Secondly, it is okay;



not know what you want to do in the future and to keep your options open. Finally, see what all your options are – talk to someone in your family or someone at school that can help you and don't rule anything out too soon! Most of all try to have fun along the way.