## Are you thinking..? "University is not for people like me."



## MEET Declan

Declan has just graduated with a 1st, and is working to build his freelancing career in marketing.

## Declan's story

I had a nightmare during the 2nd year of A levels, dealing with my dad's death and a host of mental health issues. By results day, I was convinced the world had decided that uni wasn't for me. It wasn't until a year later, after attempting an early career as an estate agent, that I decided to explore my options. A friend suggested that uni might get me out of the 'strange' place I was in, so one evening I decided to just go for it and put in an application. I explained my situation to one of the course tutors and got accepted.

My degree has opened up opportunities that were unimaginable when doing my A levels. Uni has taught me so much about business and about myself. It helped me get a placement in London working with global brands and my tutors encouraged me to start my own business, which I am continuing to build.

I graduated with a 1st, which I never would have thought possible. If I hadn't gone to uni, I would probably have a reasonably decent life, a semi-engaging career selling houses in the village I grew up in and maybe a dog. Instead, I have found my passion and with it, some open doors to who know what's next. And I might still get a dog too.

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