

Are you thinking..?

“University is not for people like me.”

MEET Ollie

Ollie graduated two years ago with a 1st and now works for a university as part of their student communications team.



Ollie's story

I really didn't think uni would be possible for me. I come from a low-income background and my early family life wasn't the most stable. I was adopted at the age of 13 having been in Local Authority care for a short while, and I didn't know anybody like me that had gone to uni. I felt this even more when I started working at a traditional and very academic university part time. They were all nice people but I wasn't really able to relate to anybody there. I just wasn't sure I'd fit in or feel at home.

I scraped by in my A-Levels with CDE and decided to apply to a more vocational university. I went to their open day and found a completely different atmosphere – really open and welcoming (for me anyway). This experience totally altered my view on uni and when I started, I felt really supported by the wellbeing and widening participation teams. They helped set me up in halls (kitchen equipment and bedding) and when I struggled during the first term, the course tutors were quick to reach out and offer additional support. I felt more at home and think if you are looking to go to uni, you just need to find the place that is comfortable for you and where you feel you fit in.

What did you think? Find Ollie's story interesting? Find more stories like Ollie's on our website!

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