

THE AUTISTIC GUIDE TO STARTING COLLEGE

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College/ University Structure

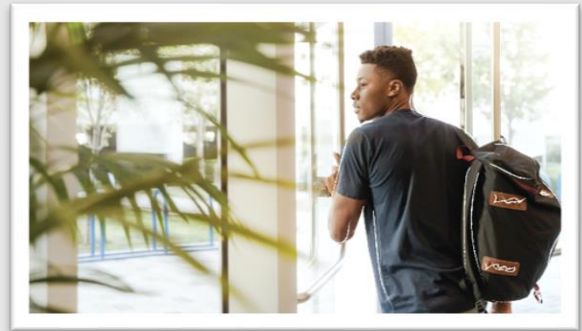
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COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are housed in subject or discipline specific departments. Colleges/universities call these Schools. These in turn sit under bigger departments called Faculties. This is a simple way for the college/university to run the logistical elements of delivering education and training. It means that all courses and the staff who run them work together under a clear management and administration structure e.g. School of Inclusive Education in the Faculty of the Institute of Education.

Your course will sit within a School or a number of Schools depending on the discipline you are studying. It is not unusual for academic staff from a number of schools relating to subjects on the curriculum to teach on a programme. This should not impact on you or your work unless you are looking for a particular person online. An understanding of how the college is structured and where the academic staff work will help you to locate them if needed.



STUDENT UNION

The Student Union will provide information and advice and an opportunity for you to engage with student union roles that represent the student voice in the college/university. The Student Union also run events from music to comedy, health and fitness to debates.

There are also a wide range of clubs and societies for you to join. You will be invited to talk to people in these clubs and societies early on in your college experience, usually in Fresher's Week which is when you can come on campus and meet like-minded people who share a passion or an interest from all things, from Japanese, to Fencing to dance. If your interest is not represented, you can start your own club and promote it through the Student Union.



University is a time for you to explore different ideas and interests and to meet others who think like you and those who challenge your thinking in a positive and exciting way.

INDUCTION

Most colleges or universities will have an induction schedule for you after registration. You will be provided with information and materials about college life and the range of contact information and details on process and systems that you will use throughout your years with the college. This is usually provided through a diary or notebook. All of this information will also be available online.

You will have a chance to meet lecturers on your programme and your peers in your year group. The university will provide presentations and Q&A sessions on the university supports and services including the library, health and fitness, student supports and services, medical and religious provision e.g. doctor on campus and/or facilities where people of faith or of no faith can find a quiet space.

Increasingly colleges/universities are also providing quiet spaces for students on the autism spectrum who may need a breather from the sensory overload. This information should be available through your induction sessions, in your print or online information and also if you register with the disability or autism support services.



Should you decide to register with a service in university, your personal information and details remain confidential unless you give permission to disclose it to lecturers or Chairs of programme. The information is only used to help Chairs of Programmes or lecturers to best accommodate or understand your needs during lectures or for assessments.

TIMETABLE

In most colleges or universities once you register with the institution you are then treated as an adult. This means that it is up to you to check that your registration is correct, check your email on a daily basis and respond to requests from university staff or people on your programme. You are given your timetable which should provide you with clear information about where and when you access your modules.



The layout of this timetable can vary. In most universities, you are provided with a link to a timetable that you access online, which will give you a clear indication of the number of weeks in a semester when the module is running, the number of modules you are registered to attend, the day and time each module is on, the room in which the module will take place, the name of your lecturer. You can print this timetable and bring it with you or bookmark it on your phone.