

THE AUTISTIC GUIDE TO STARTING COLLEGE

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What will college be
like compared to school?

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WHAT WILL COLLEGE BE LIKE COMPARED TO SCHOOL?

College or university can be very different when compared to school. On one hand you have much more independence. On another this independence means that no one will be checking in with you to see if you are attending lectures or completing coursework. This is up to you.

You will have plenty of support in college. This means that you can register with a support service that will help you navigate the college experience and advise you on how lectures and systems work e.g. the library, student cards or the Student Union.

You also as part of your college fee have access to a range of student supports and services. Student supports include access to a doctor and health services, academic supports, counselling supports, health and wellbeing etc.



SEMESTERS



Most college/university undergraduate degree programmes are run on a semester basis. Semesters are like terms in school but they tend to be counted in weeks. You may hear lecturers talking about week 1 and week 2 as you attend lectures throughout the semester. This is what it means. In some universities there are two 12 week semesters.

The first semester usually starts around the middle of September and ends in December. The second semester usually starts in the middle of

January and ends in mid-April. Some Faculties and/or degree programmes have a Reading Week. This means that at some stage during the semester you will have a week free of lectures. This week is for you to study and read up on your module content to prepare for your assessments. This week usually occurs around Week 7 and can coincide with the Halloween bank holiday or the St. Patrick's Day bank holiday. The timing of this week will depend on your university.