



This letter is from
students at Article 26
www.hkf.org.uk

Welcome to university life! We are writing you this letter as other Article 26 students and graduates who are studying, or have studied, at universities across England. We welcome you to university, which we have found to be nothing shy of awesome, an epic experience, a life changing challenge, informative, enjoyable and at points scary...but always exciting!

When we started we had certain expectations at university. We expected to enjoy student life, make friendships, attend all our classes and meet famous professors and academics. We looked forward to the extra-curricular activities, to receive moral support and to go on trips. We expected to meet people from different backgrounds and we expected to have fun.

We thought everyone knew about our immigration situation but no-one does. You should expect to be treated equally – there is no label. Everyone asked about our student finance – don't feel pressured to tell people about your situation. Some of us told people we were getting a loan, other said that we received a scholarship. Some of us faced problems at registration and enrolment, when some university staff were not sure of Article 26 or asked us for tuition fees. Stay calm and find someone in Student Services who is working on the project and can help you.

All of us faced challenges, for example we faced financial pressures that meant we missed out on Freshers Week but don't forget why you're here - it's a whole experience. Some of us work, some of us found small bursaries. There can be work opportunities within university. Learn to manage your money and to budget and to plan ahead. It can be hard not staying in halls and having to travel each day. Research your times and routes so you make it to each lecture. You will make sacrifices but you can succeed!



You may miss classes if you have to report or if you have medical condition but find someone at university who you can talk to. You may worry about being detained but there are things you can do to relieve the pressure. You may feel lonely at points but this is normal. Talk to your university and don't be too shy to ask for help. You can also get help from counsellors at university if you need it.

Aim high at university. Attend all your lectures, plan your time and interact with your course mates. They can be a source of help and support. As your time at university continues, you may become less aware of being different and more focused on your degree and your learning. Enjoy being a student. Have fun, expand your social group, develop your confidence and your academic ability. Don't be discouraged.

You are a unique individual so value and trust yourself, be confident and persevere. Your shackles are broken and the world is your oyster! So overcome your self-limiting beliefs, as they are often the biggest obstacle. You are now an ambassador for Article 26 so be yourself, seek help when you need it and make the most of this valuable opportunity. Make everyday count!

Good luck!

