The transformation power of education
Structure of today’s talk

Open, honest insights/ discussions about life at university and what you can expect?

Prepare you mentally and physically in regards to managing expectations at university

Is university for me? Why am I attending?

Opportunity for Q&A at the end
About me
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Lecturer/researcher in Education, Goldsmiths College
PhD – 2011

Key research interests: identity, youth cultures, multiculturalism, race, migration studies, Islamic feminism


Presenter for *A Very British History: British Bangladeshis*, BBC4, Feb 2020

Londoner, dad, gardener, football-mad
My own experience of university

What is the purpose of university?

Four crucial questions to consider:
1. What is my idea/ vision of university?
2. What is the purpose of university?
3. Why do I want to attend? What is my ‘end game’?
4. Am I suited for university?
Purpose of university

It will:
– Provide you with knowledge, insights, expertise in a particular field/subject area
– Expand and challenge your own intellectual, personal, social development
– Give you confidence and ‘mastery’ in a particular field
– Develop your creative, writing, analytical, reading, organisational, interpersonal skills
– Give you confidence to ask important questions
– Make you more ‘employable’; build a ‘career’; increase confidence
– Make you ‘think’ more critically about yourself, the wider world around you and your role within it – will allow you to be true to yourself and make informed, practical choices about ‘life’
– Allow you membership to an elite group of thinkers/people across the globe!
– Gives you a qualification – a degree – a piece of paper that demonstrates that you have the knowledge, discipline, patience, intelligence to have completed a degree
– Give you depth of understanding about the wider world and how you can contribute to making it a better place
Significance of university

– Education – develops your mind. Knowledge is something that is unique, personal and your own. No one can take it away from you!

– Social, fun, some of the best years of your life!

– Some of your best friends for life will be the very people you meet in your lecture halls, canteens, seminar rooms, conferences, library, sports teams etc

– You may end up not pursuing a career in your degree area – but that’s ok!
What can you expect?

– HUGE campus feel OR a more isolated departmental feel
– Lots of students (thousands!!) from a variety of backgrounds: age, language, race, gender, religion, social class, geography etc – most will be just like you – excited and nervous!
– You will get to meet lots of new, interesting and fun people
– Large lectures!
– Work placements/ experience
– Opportunity to see the world!
– Flexible timetable – so can still work, socialise, family engagements, volunteering commitments etc
– **Compulsory**: attend lectures and seminars, hand in written work to deadlines, exams, individual and group presentations, work placements
– ‘**Optional**’: joining sports and other societies organised by Student Union, participating in wider social events, going for a post-lecture coffee/ hot chocolate with your classmates, going to the library, communicating with your new friends via social media/ Whatsapp...
– Hard work and READING!!!!
Read... read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read.
Theory to help us understand and navigate the world....

#BLM – race, inequality, policing
#SarahEverard – gender, feminism, masculinity
#MeghanGate – mental health, power, race
#Brexit
#InstitutionalRacism/ Policing/ ‘gangs’
As a mature student, is university for me?

- Adaptability
- Ability to multitask
- Disciplined and determined
- Wisdom, perceptive and life experience
- ‘Perhaps’ have more time, or not?
- May want to fulfil a life long-ambition
- A new start/ new career?
- Role modelling to children/ grandchildren/ community
- Confidence to ask questions and forge friendships
So you decide that you want to go university, what next?

– Speak to your nearest and dearest – time, money and sacrifice
– Self-audit (am I ready?)
– Start writing a personal statement
– Speak to friends, family who have been to university
– Do some research on potential courses - UCAS guidance for mature students -
– Access courses, foundation degrees, work experience etc
– Student finances for mature students - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/student-finance-information-for-mature-students
– Goldsmiths University guide for mature students -
  https://www.gold.ac.uk/ug/mature-students/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI69O55PTahgMVtZtQBh0jLwCZEAAAYAYAAEgKDVPD_BwE & https://www.gold.ac.uk/study/contact/#d.en.2039143
What is a personal statement for?

An Admissions Tutor will be thinking...

- Can this person get up in the morning and come to class?
- Will they participate in seminar discussions?
- Are they really interested in the subject they are applying for?
- Can this person write essays?
- What will this person bring to the degree in terms of experience?
- What can I learn about this person that I won’t know from his/her grades?

Career paths

- Teaching, after a PGCE
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Educational psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Social work - links with the Goldsmiths MA Social Work
- Probation
- Paramedic
- Adult education including TEFL

- Educational administration and student services/student support/careers/recruitment
- Museums and galleries
- Youth & community work
- Journalism and the media
- Charities and NGOs in the UK and abroad: education; healthcare
- Law conversion course
- MA in a related area – E.g. Culture, Language & Identity at Goldsmiths
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

“The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.”

- Carl Rogers
The impact that our students have on us – we learn humanity from each other!

20.1.2023

Good morning Rose

How lovely it was to catch up yesterday. Thank you so much for your kind words of comfort and blessings. I am very humbled. My father was a kind, strong and courageous man who helped so many people and touched so many lives. We all miss him dearly as he has left a void in all our lives. My children especially miss their grandparents and I also miss their presence. But I know that both of my parents are reunited in heaven and also smiling down on us and looking out for us and this warms my heart. May they both rest in peace. Thank you so much for your kind words. Bless you.

You are a gifted student who is very well organised and works very hard. These are key skills that you will need to guide you through the next few months.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Aminul
Good luck.

All the best.

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Questions?