



Transitions

How did the reality of university compare to your expectations?

- University doesn't match expectations that students have, some students found it was better, whilst others felt it didn't meet theirs. The workload for some was too much, whilst others found it easier than expected – there's an even divide between both cases.
 - Accommodation is not living up to expectations, with students finding housemates intolerable, some even not feeling safe – this made socialising and enjoying that aspect of university difficult for some
 - The people in the general university environment are nicer, 'less scary' than first thought, with it being more welcoming than expected - This can also be applied to York as a whole.
 - University is a big step from colleges, and some feel it should be advertised as such – especially when you look at the amount of individual work needed/expected, more could be done to help improve students' time management skills.
 - YSJ was great for not only boosting academic knowledge, but also social skills and confidence levels – its friendly nature helped people make friends and settle in much easier than many anticipated.
 - More should be done to help students 'build up' to university level, in terms of independence and academic expectations.
 - Financial support could be better, especially for those who are new to living alone/in a city as expensive as York.
-

What could be done differently to help you feel more prepared for university?

- Students need more information leading up to their move in, including financial advice, accommodation information, including what to bring, as well as academic support/briefing – stage-management
-
- A 'summer camp' or taster days for those coming to university, so that they can meet lecturers, course mates and socialise, whilst getting to know about the work they'll be doing
- More course information should be provided BEFORE students start, so that they are not bombarded with information in their first few weeks



- An introduction to the SU should be included in welcome week, so that people know what is offered, what support is there etc.
 - Less emphasis should be placed on drinking events, as a large proportion of students drink very little or not at all.
 - First/second years should be assigned a 'mentor' from the year above to help them/give support – their academic tutors should also be in more constant contact and from an earlier time than is currently the norm.
 - The reality of university should be emphasised, and from a student perspective, as too much of the information given resembles propaganda, and often doesn't truthfully represent the realities of the experience.
 - Sports and Soc's should be publicised more, so that people know exactly how beneficial they can be – many students have stayed in university purely because of these groups.
 - The campus lacks in information, with Holgate being where most posters etc. can be found, and even that is minimal
-

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported during there transitions?

- Tutors should not only be available for more meetings but need to better be on-call via email – they should also be a mandatory part of the course, with first years being introduced to them at the earliest possible opportunity.
- As well as tutor meetings, students should be able to contact a department's 'techs', allowing them to have their questions answered, supporting them to do their best work
- Freshers events, as well as those held throughout the year are heavily emphasised on drinking and need to be diversified to appeal to a larger portion of students.
- Dissertations should be discussed and prepared for over second year, so that there is less pressure and stress on third year, which is already crammed enough.
- A session/sessions should be provided on how to use Moodle, and other online resources/portals, so that students can make the best possible use of them
- Summer is a time where more information/contact from the university and course staff should be provided more, as many feel cut off over this period, meaning that they start a new year feeling disconnected, and often stressed.



- Courses should provide additional, optional e-learning to allow those students who want to the opportunity to gain skills and further their development
- Students should be encouraged to cross-communicate over years and different courses and told just how beneficial this can be. Teaching groups can be very isolated from each other, even those covering the same content. Collaboration across schools should be more prevalent, especially when considering joint-honours students.
- An interactive map of campus would help students find their way around, could be contained within a YSJ app alongside timetable and other resources.