

Ask Aberdeen Episode 1 Transcript

Georgie [00:00:07] I'm Georgie.

Michaela [00:00:08] And I'm Michaela.

Georgie [00:00:08] And we're here to tell you about the University of Aberdeen,

Michaela [00:00:11] In each episode, we will discuss frequently asked questions about topics such as applications...

Georgie [00:00:15] Go abroad...

Michaela [00:00:17] Student life...

Georgie [00:00:18] Sports and Societies...

Michaela [00:00:19] Budgeting for Uni...

Georgie [00:00:20] And Life in Aberdeen.

Michaela [00:00:22] We will be speaking to current Aberdeen students, those who really know what it's like to study and live here.

Georgie [00:00:27] And we'll be getting exclusive tips from members of our amazing staff.

Michaela [00:00:31] Join us for this episode of Ask Aberdeen.

Georgie [00:00:37] Welcome to today's episode of Ask Aberdeen. My name is Georgie and I'm a student recruitment officer at the University. I'm going to be speaking to two current Aberdeen students about their experiences of living in Aberdeen and share some insights into life in Aberdeen. So welcome to Matilde and Maisie. Would you like to introduce yourself first Matilde?

Matilde [00:00:57] OK, thanks, Georgie. Hi I am Matilde. I'm originally from Italy, I've been in Aberdeen for four years now. I've been studying at undergraduate level on an English and History of Art course.

Maisie [00:01:08] Hi, I am Maisie. I'm from North Yorkshire and I've also been here for four years now in the final few weeks of my undergraduate joint honors degree in Anthropology and International Relations.

Georgie [00:01:20] So we are just going to have a chat about life in Aberdeen and your experiences as students. We get a lot of people who ask us what Aberdeen is like as a city and what there is to do as students. Our lovely students here are going to give us an insight into what they've experienced. So, I thought we'd start at the beginning with Freshers Week. It's called lots of different things. I've always called it fresher's week, but it is also called introduction week or welcome week, but basically, it's the first week when you come to university and there's a lot happening. Matilde do you want to tell us a bit about your experience of Fresher's week and what you did?

Matilde [00:01:49] Yeah, sure that sounds good. So, yeah, in my first year, I had no idea what Freshers Week was, so I just basically joined some of my new flat mates that I met at my accommodation and we just went together, and we were just curious. None of us really knew what to expect, so it was really nice. Basically, it is just a week where on campus you have a lot of stalls that are different things. There's one day that's specifically for societies, one day that's specifically for sports, and basically there are just a lot of people trying to lure you in to join their societies and sports clubs and everything. There's free food, so that's always good. I would spend, my second and third year especially my lunches there because there was free food and, you know, being a student is just being cheap. So, yeah, it's just nice. There's pizza, in my first year there were waffles as well, which was really nice. I don't know if you had the same experience Maisie.

Maisie [00:02:50] Well actually my partner and I started pretty much the weekend before freshers started, so we completely missed this week in our first year. But we did sign up for a politics and IR society, so we did do that, I think either in the first or second week. So during freshers week some societies will kind of continue on, if you see what I mean, to kind of get more people involved and stuff. So we did that in the years after that. I think it was in my third year that I helped out with a committee stall that I was on and then I spent most of the afternoon at the plant stall that was next to it, and I bought lots of plants and had to haul them all home.

Matilde [00:03:33] Yeah, that one's really nice, isn't it?

Georgie [00:03:36] I've seen as a member of staff as well the Dominoes people going round giving out vouchers and free pizza, and then there's the houseplant store where the students are kitting out their houses for the year.

Matilde [00:03:45] Yeah, I think there are also spin wheels for some bars or something in town and you'd get vouchers and stuff.

Georgie [00:03:54] It is like a big summer fete I always think, there's loads happening and it's really buzzing. And like I said, there's lots of societies and sports clubs to meet so you can chat to people and sign up for things and try them out before you know if you want to do it or not. So, yeah, it's a really great time. I mean, life in at uni, one of my favorite times was always Freshers Week because there's just so much happening and it's amazing. You can go in years three and four as well it doesn't just have to be your first year.

Matilde [00:04:21] And it's so good that there's one in January as well. I think my first year I had no idea and then in my second and third year I just went there. It's really nice. It's smaller than the September one, you know, because of people that do go abroad. So they maybe come live just for half a semester or something or for PHD students that start in January. It's just nice to have something like the one that we have in September as well.

Georgie [00:04:49] Yeah, that's really good, I think they call it Re-Freshers or something like that. There's also a lot of things happening at Hillhead and of course, campus generally throughout the year. Do you guys have experience of that? I think Matilde you said you did some things that Hillhead, that's our accommodation.

Matilde [00:05:04] Yeah, I think it was just, you know, during Freshers Week and during the first two weeks you are just keen on meeting as many people as possible and making friends and everything. There are so many events that go on, especially at Hillhead, because it's the main hub for a lot of people to just meet. It's just basically students

around. So, I didn't live at Hillhead, but during the first two weeks of my first year, I used to go there quite a lot because there were so many events. They did nights where there was a bar so you could go there and there were pub quizzes and everything. I think there was a night where they gave out free food so we decided to go with my flat mates, but then when we got there, all the food was gone already because we were kind of late and we had underestimated the power of how many people would go for free food. But then, yeah, I think they also did cooking classes and that kind of stuff. Later on, I have friends who went, I didn't personally go, but it's just nice to be up there, you know, it's just a brief walk from uni. It's like 15 minutes so it's not too bad, and you go through a park during the day and it's quite nice.

Georgie [00:06:19] It's a lovely part of living at Hillhead. We're going to have a focus on accommodation, so we won't go into accommodation too much, but it's really close to the campus. And like you said there's lots happening at Hillhead as well being a student there. The experience is really social and there's lots of things to do. Maisie didn't you talk about therapy pets as well?

Maisie [00:06:37] Oh, yeah. I think they have a stress awareness month in April and then in previous years, the uni organised a day where you have therapets like dogs. Puppies will come in and you have to book you a slot and I think you get dominoes as well. I've never managed to secure a slot.

Georgie [00:06:57] I think you do yeah.

Matilde [00:07:00] Yeah. I think it's called dogs and dominoes.

Maisie [00:07:03] Oh, yeah, the name gives it away. And I think they had goats as well one time recently.

Matilde [00:07:08] I think there were pet horses as well.

Maisie [00:07:12] Little ponies, so gutted.

Georgie [00:07:15] But yeah it's aimed at students for stress awareness week and helping everyone de-stress. A lot of people when they come to uni ask 'can I bring my pet?' And generally the answer's no. But then there's the opportunity to stroke something soft and fluffy if that helps you feel a bit better during exam week and things. So, I guess as a student, you guys have you experienced support? Are you aware of that? The support there as well to help you out?

Matilde [00:07:44] Yeah, definitely, I think the only thing about university is you need to kind of look for the support and know where to look. But it's quite nice at the University of Aberdeen, especially because they're really good at directing you where you need to go. So basically, the student's union, you just go upstairs and there's student support. So you just really, you know, walk in there for a coffee or something and if you need anything they're just up there. You know, you don't need to go around town and look for them everywhere. So it's quite nice.

Georgie [00:08:14] It's nice that it's easy to find, many students maybe don't know about it so it's something students can be aware of when they come to Aberdeen. So when you talk about it being on campus and stuff, what other experiences have you had? What's the campus like, are there coffee shops? What can people do day to day on campus?

Maisie [00:08:32] Yeah, campus is beautiful. Me and my partner hadn't actually visited before we came to uni and we just moved here. And then the first time that we walked onto campus we thought oh my God, this is like Harry Potter or something. It is really stunning, especially when the sun is shining and it's blue sky like every day. Now, even when we go for walks and stuff we're so lucky to be here on this campus because it is just gorgeous. There's lots of green spaces. The buildings are beautiful, lots of trees. And I love all the red ivy that kind of goes over new kings and it is a really gorgeous place. There are little independent coffee shops in the centre of campus. Kilau, I think I'm saying that right, I'll never know how to properly pronounce it, but that's a really lovely little independent shop and quite often my friends go there. And then there is Food Story which has a little zero waste cafe on campus now and I was going there quite a lot before the pandemic started. And then there's another little cafe called Shelter. They're all about a minute or two walk from each other, so there are lots of nice little independent places. And obviously you can get food from the library and various buildings as well. But they all do good coffee, those independent places, that's probably key.

Georgie [00:09:53] Essential for students, isn't it, good coffee? And they do lots of veggie and vegan food as well, and Halal. There's lots of food in the coffee shops to cater for everyone.

Matilde [00:10:05] Yeah. Yeah, definitely. I love the salads in Food Story so that was my go to.

Georgie [00:10:10] And we have a Starbucks, a lot of students ask about coffee shops, and we all vote for the independent ones, they are really great. The hot chocolate at Food Story is amazing. It's like melted chocolate with milk. It's incredible. But we do have a Starbucks, which is really popular with students as well. What about the library and stuff, do you guys use that much and what's it like? How do you rate it?

Matilde [00:10:33] I think it's just stunning. The first time I was here, I got to Aberdeen with my brother and my dad, so we just visited around campus because, just like Maisie, I didn't visit everything before coming here. We just got in and I remember just looking up and being so stunned. It's such a huge place as well. It has seven stories and it's so nice. You just look up and there's all this different architecture. You can look through the ceiling which is great. Just aside from this, I think it's also great because you have basically a floor for every subject, so I would go to the fourth floor because that's where most English and History of Art books are, but then, you know, you have like the fifth floor, I think, which is like journals and stuff. So it's just great. And there's a lot of space to sit down and, you know, we used to joke that you could basically live in there for revision and stuff with my friends because it's a comfortable space to be in. There is a cafe on the ground floor so you could get food.

Georgie [00:11:55] That's really good. What about you Masie, do you often go to the library?

Maisie [00:11:59] Yeah, the main library, the Sir Duncan Rice Library is amazing. It's like a big cube and you can see it from different points around the city as well. And then you look through it and you look up. It's kind of like a massive hole and a kind of angle, isn't it? Like you said, Matilda, the architecture is pretty cool, but yeah, the amount of books and everything on there, I can end up getting lost, almost trying to find the one I've got on my phone, like the exact number that I need, walking up or down through all the things that

I've used. There is the law library as well, sometimes if it's been super busy in the main library, I'll go to use the law library and find a seat in there, there's plenty of opportunity to do that. And there's computers in the library as well as if you don't have your own laptop then you can use a computer.

Georgie [00:12:47] Yes, we actually have three libraries on campus. We've got the Sir Duncan Rice library, which they've just mentioned is the main one. You can actually see it when you fly into Aberdeen Airport. So if you're flying in, I always try to spot it and you can see the sea as well. The university is really close to the sea, it's about 15 minutes maximum down to the beach. You can see the sea from the top floor of the library as well which is a really pretty view. The University always books it out on Bonfire Night and uses it for special guests and you can see all the fireworks. But yeah, we have other libraries. Maisie already mentioned that we've got the law library, so it's for the law students with all the books and stuff but anyone can go in there. And then we have the very elite and special divinity library as well, but that one is just for students on these courses. So if you want to get a sneak peek in there you'll have to make friends with someone one of these courses. Again, that library has all the unique books and facilities that you need. And like Maisie and Matilde said, you've got computers and your study group rooms. I think you said you did group study and things in there sometimes, so yeah, you could definitely live in the library with a coffee shop on the ground floor. You are set to go.

Matilde [00:13:59] Yeah, exactly. And I think with the divinity library, I've had people ask for directions for it before, but I think unless you're a divinity student, you have no idea where it is, you know roughly the location of it. But it's just like a nice, you know, treasure hunt whether you'll find it and everything. I think it's behind like a door and it doesn't have any sign on it and everything. So it's so cool.

Georgie [00:14:22] Yeah, it's a hidden gem in the oldest part of the campus buildings. So, yeah, you have to have a look for it if anyone comes to campus for a visit. So aside from kind of campus and accommodation and things, something people always ask us is like town, like what's Aberdeen as a city like, what is there to do outside of your lectures and things. So Maisie, do you want to tell us about the shops and things that there are to do in the town in Aberdeen.

Maisie [00:14:48] Yeah, so Aberdeen is like a big city, but also you can get most things you need within a very small area, like the centre of town. There's plenty of shops and there's actually three shopping centres which have big brand names. Union Square by the train station has all sorts of things like Wagamamas and various other restaurants and whatever, like chain restaurants and stuff. Then there is independent shopping as well. There is a shop I really like on Belmont Street called Juniper. It's kind of like homewares and jewellery and stuff. Then there's the Rosemount area, they have a lot of like really nice little independent shops. There's a great little bakery there that was really, really good bread and really good granola. So yeah, up around Rosemount. I haven't been myself, but I've had friends that say that the best charity shops to go to are in Rosemount. You can get some really good stuff for obviously not very much up in Rosemount.

Georgie [00:15:51] So ideal for students.

Maisie [00:15:54] Yeah, exactly.

Georgie [00:15:56] And Matilde did you have experience in town and what there is for students to do?

Matilde [00:16:00] Yeah, yeah, definitely, I'm kind of big on shopping, there are three big shopping centres and basically, I don't want to say they're all connected, but they're like so close to each other that you could basically, you know, like even on a rainy day, just be indoors and shop for the whole day and that would be it. But, yeah, I also love going for an afternoon in a cafe or that kind of stuff. There's one that's really cute on Belmont Street, I think, which is called Cup, which has a kind of Alice in Wonderland feel to it. I just went there for the first time because I saw photos and I was like, oh my God, this is so cool. It has all the clocks and that kind of stuff. It's just so nice and it's just a small business so you feel like you're supporting a small business and they do crazy afternoon teas. There are so many things on those platters like cupcakes and scones, that kind of stuff. It's so nice and you go home and you don't need to eat for the next two days or something. So that's really good.

Georgie [00:17:14] That sounds so good. I definitely need to go and find that one. There's also lots to do, we don't have a pier but there's the arcade area and there's a big bowling alley. Cadonas is the big amusement park type things which has quite a lot to do for students there as well. And there's lots of cinemas, so we've got the main one the girls mentioned, Union Square is like the biggest shopping centre, but there's two others right next to it. And there's a big cinema in there and there's a Vue cinema a bit further down, which is five pounds I think so I always go there. But between them they cover all the big films and things.

So something people always wonder about Aberdeen, is whether there is much to do? And I think we've shown people that, yeah, there are loads of really unique small places, but also all the big shops and cinemas and bowling and kind of the key things that you would expect to find in a big city as well.

Maisie [00:18:09] There is a small little independent cinema as well. I thought I'd put that in as an independent one as well.

Matilde [00:18:19] Yeah. I think they had like volunteering opportunities for students. In my first year I did a film class as part of my electives and I think they were advertising it because they needed people and they just want students there as much as possible. So it was really nice.

Georgie [00:18:35] I suppose, on that note, there's quite a lot of opportunity for jobs for students isn't there because obviously part of student life is that you've got to be able to buy things and pay your rent and stuff. So students will obviously have loans, but we do know students have part time work. Have you guys ever had any part time work?

Matilde [00:18:53] Yeah, I mean, I have some friends who have applied even now in this current situation in which, like, you know, it's a bit harder to find jobs and everything and they found jobs really easily as a student, you have a pretty flexible timetable, which I think is really nice for whomever wants to hire you, like bars and cafes, even clothes shops, because there are so many shopping malls of course, there are so many shops. I think as long as you look out there are definitely opportunities and maybe just for like weekend work or depends like how much you're willing to commit. The university has a really good career service as well so you just go there and they're willing to check your CV and give you suggestions on where to look for jobs and everything. So, yes, definitely not a problem.

Georgie [00:19:45] That's really good. I think a lot people worry, but just want to know, is Aberdeen big enough for them to find work and these two lovely students are Student Ambassadors so you can also apply for work if we're hiring to work for the university itself across various places across campus. There's jobs across the campus as well in coffee shops and places, but also to represent the university and speak about your experiences and help with open days and things. So that's really good that you and your friends had experience of getting part time work because a lot of students will work at least some of the time. I did when I was at university as well. It just helps you have a bit more money to be able to go out and have those drinks with your friends and do things. There are also lots of events that go on in Aberdeen. Maisie, you mentioned the Spectra Light Festival. Can you explain what that is?

Maisie [00:20:32] Yeah. So I think it was at the end of our first year that it was on and it was throughout Union Terrace Gardens, which I think are now being refurbished, but that's another thing, there are so many beautiful gardens and parks around Aberdeen, so they did it throughout this park, and I think it was on Union Street as well. Essentially, yes, it was a light festival. So it was all sorts of light installations. I'm not going to describe it very well or do it justice. There were lots of different lights, but also themes and you would go in the evenings, I think it was in January, so obviously it would be fully dark, so it really would be quite amazing. It was just a nice thing to kind of get out and see part of the city and see something different, you know, take advantage of something that has come to Aberdeen.

Georgie [00:21:21] Yeah, it's nice. I think it emphasises that Aberdeen is a good-sized city and there's lots happening there. I mean, one of my favourite things, and Matilda I'm sure you can tell us, is the Christmas market.

Matilde [00:21:31] Oh, yeah definitely. I went two years ago now and it's in Marischal College. It's where the bigger installation is of all the Christmas stalls and everything is just so nice because usually inside Marischal College, which is in the city centre, it's just like a square and there's nothing in there, but at Christmas it's full of Christmas stalls and all these nice things. And there's Christmas foods, which I'm really fond of, and I think they put up some kids amusement stuff. It's just really nice, you get into the mood. I think they start the Christmas market in the last week of November or like halfway through November so it's really nice because it's early. But then you get into the Christmas spirit and you're like, oh, that's so nice.

Georgie [00:22:34] Yeah, they do start it quite early so students can still enjoy it before you go home at Christmas. It smells so good as well doesn't it with all the food and it just feels so festive so it's really lovely. But yeah, there's lots of events happening. I mentioned Bonfire Night earlier from the top of the library. That happens every year down on the beach as well and they have flame throwers and people juggling fire and stuff. So, yeah, there's lots to get involved in outside. Speaking of the beach and stuff I know you both go out and explore quite a lot. So Maisie, you mentioned how you don't have to have a car to be able to go and explore around Aberdeen. Do you want to speak a bit about that?

Maisie [00:23:15] Yeah, so I don't drive and neither does my partner, so we have to be reliant on buses, or the train, if we want to get a bit further out of Aberdeen. But even just walking, I imagine that most people will probably live quite close to the uni and that means that the beach is really about a ten, fifteen minute walk away and then Seaton park as well, which is a beautiful, massive park and it runs alongside a river. And there's lots of woodlands and there's all sorts of different kinds of sections to it. So, there's plenty of opportunities to go out to interesting and nice places just by walking, but there is a really

good bus system that's cheap. If you get on the stagecoach bus, I think it's like a £4 return as a student. So we've been out to Drum Castle, which I think was forty five minutes on the bus, and I think it was four pound fifty return as a student. So you're getting some good distance for, you know, not too much money. Going north out of Aberdeen as well, there's a beach where there's an all year round seal colony, and again, that was only twenty five to thirty minutes on the bus, literally from the end of our street. There's quite a lot. The streets in Aberdeen are straight lines, like the main roads are just a straight line. So if you can get onto that road you can normally get a bus going some direction out of Aberdeen and then once you're off the bus by the seals, it's only a five minute walk. So there's plenty of opportunity to be able to get a little bit further afield without driving and not to have to spend really any money. And then you just take a packed lunch and then find a pub and go for a pint afterwards.

Matilde [00:24:48] Yeah that's true.

Georgie [00:24:51] I think something I was amazed about when I moved to Aberdeen, because I'm not from Aberdeen, was just how beautiful the countryside is and a lot of our students do love that they can get out into the countryside. So as you said the beach is right by the university, but you've got the Cairngorm Mountains which aren't that far away. So we have a snow sports team, a mountain biking club, things like that and they'll all go and use these facilities and you can join up and that's a good way to go and explore as well and see more of the countryside. But we're right on the East Coast, so you have beautiful cliffs and Maisie mentioned the Seal Beach which is amazing. You won't believe how many there are until you go and visit. I take all my visitors to the beach because I'm like, you have to see it. But what about you Matilde? Have you explored a bit of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen.

Matilde [00:25:37] Yeah definitely, as Maisie was saying, there's so many castles that are about forty five minutes away and some of them are just ruins. So you just walk through them and it's just a nice view because they're usually by the sea so it's really nice. And then some of them, I think I've been to Fraser Castle which is a bit further away, but that one has the furniture inside and everything, so it's really nice to be in there. It's just a nice, you know, cultural trip if you feel like doing one. But even staying within the city, there's Duthie park, which is, I think, south of Aberdeen. And that's really nice because it's super big and has a winter greenhouse thing. That's really nice because it has all these flowers inside and you get to walk through it and there's, you know, little like environments with tropical plants. And so, yeah, it's just a nice trip and it literally takes like probably 10 minutes from the train station to get there. And it's all through these super nice residential areas, so it's really quiet and you can just literally walk there. So it's really nice. And also, if you go south of Aberdeen, like close to the train station, there's Footdee which is a small fisherman's village. It's just nice to walk through there. There are all these like super small houses, super Instagram friendly if anyone is interested. And I think that's where the lighthouse is, so you can go there and kind of see it from up close.

Maisie [00:27:30] I think as well you can actually sometimes see dolphins when you walk along the beach. We saw a few just before Christmas, this last Christmas. We just went for a walk down to the beach and we saw all these dolphins. But if you walk kind of further around, so you'd be the opposite side of the harbor where Matilda was just saying, if you walk around, there's a place called Torry Battery which I don't really know the history of, but supposedly, kind of all year round, you're meant to be able to walk around, I think it's called Grey Hope Bay maybe, and you can see dolphins pretty much most of the time, and

that takes you through the historical part of the city as well, like through over the bridge, into Torry.

Georgie [00:28:08] That's something I often tell our students who are interested in zoology and Marine Biology or anything like that. Aberdeen is really nice for the wildlife and the marine animal's, yeah, it's amazing that you can just see those in the UK. It's really nice. Have you ever been to Dunnottar. I know I always pronounce that wrong but that's what I call it!

Maisie [00:28:26] So do I. It's amazing.

Georgie [00:28:29] But that's another beautiful ruined castle right on the cliffs down in Stonehaven, which again is just south of Aberdeen. And you can also get, which you must have if you are visiting Scotland, is a deep fried Mars bar. So you can get the deep fried Mars bar in a chip shop which claims to be the first place to make it. I have a sweet tooth and thought it was amazing so you can get that there as well.

Matilde [00:28:57] Yeah. And it's always so windy up there. It's crazy. And talking about windy places, I was thinking before when we were talking about the library, I don't know if you've had the same experience Maisie, but going up to the Sir Duncan Rice library, it's always windy. It's just like, you know, like two minutes walk uphill. Like it can be the best day ever, but it's just going to be windy.

Georgie [00:29:21] I think it's just that bit, isn't it, like a tunnel leading up to it. The wind just goes through it. But I love Elphinstone Lawn when the sun's shining, it's glorious. Students will just congregate there and relax and just spend time on campus as well. So I think something else we haven't talked about that some student's might be interested in is sports and extracurricular things, and we won't go into too much detail about sports and societies because we're going to do another podcast on that, but have you guys used the sports village just recreationally?

Maisie [00:29:54] I've been to the swimming pool. The massive, amazing Olympic size pool but that's the only part of it.

Georgie [00:30:02] But it's nice isn't it that you can do that. You don't need to be the elite swimmer or join a sports club. You can just go and use it and it's directly opposite the campus. Students get quite cheap rates as well. I think it's about £16 a month for a membership to use the pool and the gym and things. So that's really popular. What about you Matilde?

Matilde [00:30:24] Yeah, and I think they have off peak memberships as well, which are even cheaper if you feel like going early in the morning or late in the afternoon. I had a friend who used to go to yoga classes and they would do them there late at night, so she didn't really need one of those all day long memberships. And I have been in there just with friends because I'm not really that sporty kind of person. But yeah, just because they do all of these other classes, like yoga and fitness and that kind of stuff, you don't really need to go in there and do superheavy hardcore kind of exercise. You can just go in there and have fun.

Georgie [00:31:09] And you can try that during freshers as well can't you? Like during Freshers week which we discussed at the beginning, you can go into the Sports Village and see what it's about and see the Olympic size swimming pool and FIFA approved

indoor football pitch and things, it is amazing. You can hire that out as well, if you and a group of friends want to go and play football you can go and just play with your friends socially. So it's another aspect of student life, which you can enjoy while in Aberdeen. So I don't know if you guys have anything else you want to add for our listeners about your experiences of Aberdeen?

Maisie [00:31:42] I was just going to say as well, thinking of nights out or afternoons out even because of the layout of the city there is quite a lot of bars and pubs which are all quite close, you don't have to walk very far to go into all kinds of different bars and everything like that. There's a lot of independent craft beer places, and then there's standard cheaper pubs where you could just go watch the football or something. Yeah, oh, gigs as well, there is quite a good amount of live music as well, a variety of different venues, again, kind of dotted around town. So, whatever your music taste is, you'll usually find something going on that you can go to.

Matilde [00:32:31] Yeah I completely agree with Maisie. There's one that's super cool in the city centre that's called Slains Castle and it's basically a pub, which has a gothic feel to it. So you get in there and there's all these vampire themed stuff they have, like for Halloween they had a Harry Potter night, so they would do Harry Potter themed drinks. I think it was in my second year. It's like my favourite place to be. And I'm not even that much of a drinking or going out person, but it was really worth the visit. Not to be confused with the actual Slains castle, which is an castle out of town.

Maisie [00:33:25] That's a good point.

Georgie [00:33:28] Yeah, it's really good. I think for lots of students, part of being a student is going for some drinks with your friends and like you say Aberdeen is really well laid out so that you can go down Union Street and there's all the places pretty much really close. From a parents perspective, we also have a safe taxi scheme. So if you're in town and you've lost your wallet or spent all your money, whatever the problem is, and you need to get back to your accommodation, you can get a city taxi, give them your student ID card, and they will make sure you get home safe. And then they will just give your student ID card back to the student's union and you can just pay your taxi fair later on. So it just makes sure that everyone's always looked after and I believe as well, you guys should know this better, the older students are sometimes in town, just to make sure everyone's ok and directing towards buses and things, I think during freshers week as well, just to make sure everyone's alright and safe when they're out in town. But Aberdeen, yeah, it's great for everything it seems, so thank you so much Maisie and Matilde. I hope our listeners enjoyed finding a bit more out about Aberdeen and they can listen out for some further podcasts, which will be coming soon.

Voiceover [00:34:44] Thank you for joining us for this episode of the Ask Aberdeen podcast, if you would like to suggest a topic we should cover, please email us at UKTeam@abdn.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you. To be alerted about new episodes subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.