

## Ask Aberdeen Episode 8 Transcript

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

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

**Georgie** [00:00:09] 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.

**Michaela** [00:00:35] Great, thank you, everyone, for joining us today and for our next episode of Ask Aberdeen. So last week, Georgie spoke to a couple of students who study a couple of science degrees. This week, we are bringing you to arts and humanities students to chat about what their days and weeks look like. So when you're in school, all subjects are taught quite similarly, and this actually changes quite a lot when you come to university. So, for example, if you're Spanish and Latin American studies students, you will actually have a very different schedule to an engineering student. Hence this episode, because we want to bring you the view from the other side. So here with me today are nuts. And Rian, who will share their experience. So, Natalie, would you mind introducing yourself?

**Natalie** [00:01:21] Yes, so I'm Natalie, I am an English with creative writing student, and I have just finished my fourth year and I'm about to graduate.

**Michaela** [00:01:29] How exciting. And Rian, how about you?

**Rian** [00:01:32] Hello, I'm Rian, and I am currently a third year and geography and international relations student.

**Michaela** [00:01:39] exciting, I also did politics and international relations. So we've got we've got a little bit of a majority in the room right now. But let's start with a topic that I actually just mentioned. I mentioned that university is quite different from school. How did you find transitioning to university?

**Natalie** [00:02:01] So I actually took a couple of years in between school and university to sort of work out what it was I wanted to do. And so I started coming into university with a bit of a gap between leaving school and starting and starting studying again at uni, which was quite daunting, actually, taking a couple of years, you know, not writing essays, not really doing a lot of research or study was a bit scary. But actually, once I got into it and once I got started studying again and learning and I'm sort of like being able to grow my sort of knowledge again, I find it really exciting and really interesting. That happened quite quickly for me.

**Michaela** [00:02:41] And Rian, how about you? Did you find it very different being at uni compared to being in school?

**Rian** [00:02:49] Well, I came to uni after school, straight after I graduated high school, I did find it a bit daunting at first but we wrote essays in high school and stuff. So what the first geography course I did was pretty much a Higher geography so what I did previously. So it was not challenging for me academically but more like getting assignments and finding where to turn them in. It was more the technical aspects that I struggled with more than just reading. And then having to discuss things with people, tutorials were a bit different, having never done that, and having to use your own critical thinking was different. In school, you don't really get your own critical thinking so that was a bit different. But like it was more or less just the same. Like if you come from school you're already used to writing essays so you're kind of prepared in that way.

**Michaela** [00:04:04] Yeah. What I found it might be just my experience because I was in a different educational setting then, you know, you guys from the UK. But what I found was that once I came to university, people wanted to know my opinions and we were very much discussing concepts and we were discussing, you know, things and our viewpoints. And it was quite different from school where I felt like you were told, you know, and this is what you should remember and this is how it is. While once you came to university, it was much more up to you to schedule your own time. And you do your own readings because you need the background for yourself so that you can then discuss things with others. It's not like that. You need to do the readings because they need you to remember specific dates and specific names and that sort of stuff. It's more about you need to do the reading to understand the concept so that then you can come into the discussion with a bit more of an opinion and you can back that opinion up with actual data and actual, you know, things that you have read. So that's why I like I found that quite different, because I did not expect that. I did not expect to have so much freedom. And Natalie, did you also find that you, like you are being asked to sort of do stuff in your own time?

**Natalie** [00:05:27] Yeah, for sure. I think the academic part was relatively similar to school, but sort of like social aspect or the sort of freedom that you had to structure your own days and stuff was very different. You know, you weren't sort of being told you have to be at this class at this time and you've got them, you know, nine, two or three every day. It was very much like, oh, you've maybe got a two hour tutorial in the morning. You'll have a lecture at some point in the afternoon, but then you've got the rest of the day that you have to sort of work out. OK, got my reading for this class. I've got to get this piece of work done for this other class. You know, I've got to get started on this other actually, like, it's a lot more up to you what it is you focus on and what you spend your time on, which can be a good thing because it means that you've got a lot more freedom to schedule different things in different places. And work is best for you, but also can be a bit tricky to get used to as well if you're not used to having that sort of independent study time. So I know for me, like my first semester of first year, maybe didn't do as much study and as I probably should of

because I was just like, oh my God, I've got all this freedom to go and do stuff. And there's new people and things and. I'm in a new city, like I just want to go out and explore and meet people and do things instead of studying, which was probably not the best way to go.

**Rian** [00:06:40] I mean, for me, it took a little while to actually find a balance. And for your first semester, you wanted to be able to meet people. You want to kind of get into the university life. And so for me, it was hard to strike the balance because what I found, studying in between lectures, by the end of the semester, like I was finding that wasn't for me. I was better taking a break in between lectures and actually just like kind of unpack what you learnt in the lecture. It was helpful when you had friends for a semester have the same timetable because we did the same exact degree. And so we kind of just structured our days around each other. It was actually quite a good detox because it took you away from the academic part. But then it was like you could get your days where like we would go and do academic work, but we'd go to a library and do reading together. And in that way, you can always invite people and socialise, in ways you never really had in school. When you studied in school, you went to the study hall. You had to do it in silence, at least in my school. You could only speak when you ask for help. At uni you choose what you want to study that day, in school you had to for example do Maths on Thursday. At uni I could pick what I wanted to study. So if I don't feel like doing geography today, I could do French.

**Michaela** [00:08:52] Yes, right. And you just mentioned that, you know, sometimes between classes you went into the library and studied. Natalie. Would you mind describing to us what sort of your regular day or week would look like? How many sort of tutorials did you have? How many classes? Was it all in one? Was it all at the same time? How did that work?

**Natalie** [00:09:08] So in first year, I had four subjects that I studied, I did my English course, which was mandatory. And then I had three additional elective courses. But my classes are all the different times on different days. For the most part they were it was sort of two lectures or two one hour lectures and then a one or two hour tutorial for each class, apart from Counselling Skills, which was structured differently, which was just a three hour tutorial once a week. Hard-going, yeah. So my classes were usually on Tuesday to Thursday. Usually I would have like one class in the morning, usually around about 10. Occasionally I got 9am, which was not great, but that's always like the earliest that they're going to be. So like anyone who's worried about, like having to get up for like 8am or something can relax, there's none of that, at least not in English. So, yeah, going for ten, maybe hang around campus, get a coffee with my friends after class and maybe do a bit of reading in the library, which is usually how I manage to get all my reading done, was going in between classes to the library and just sitting and popping my headphones and, and get my reading done. Then usually another lecture tutorial and then heading back to Hillhead where I stayed in the student accommodation there, and sometimes I get a bit more studying done. Or if I had like an essay or something to do that week, then I would work on that because I tended to write my essays better at night time and I found that I could just sort of like really concentrate far better. And yeah, I just usually spent a lot of time with my friends as the people in my flat hanging out, maybe going for a couple of drinks at the bar or something like just very chilling, relax. Nothing was too sort of stressful or like very like intense, at least in first year.

**Rian** [00:11:09] Yeah. Feeling like what people think of first year being like really intense. And like for me it was the same. It was only 9-4. I mean, like it's not that bad. I usually had a big gap, so it could be like on Monday a lecture at 11am and last one at four with a

massive gap. Maybe I'll study in between and I'll maybe get lunch. And I'd always make sure I was eating, I think sometimes people forget because, like, it's not like a school day where you have money to go for lunch. Sometimes you have to remind yourself 'oh I need to get some lunch before I go to the lecture or otherwise I'm going to fall asleep'. That was the hardest thing was the afternoon lectures. I was always like, dozing off. Overall, it was just pretty much the same as you described, I would go to meetings and society stuff. And then on Tuesday night, a lot of people would go to the club as we didn't have lectures on Wednesday. If we had an essay, I would do it in my room at night time with lots of caffeine. And yeah, it was pretty much chilled though, to be honest. I think for a first semester, I think it was about making friends. And to understand the uni way of life, as it were, and just adjust.

**Natalie** [00:13:18] For sure, I think for the first year it was a lot for me at least it was a lot of trying to find my way around both campus and the city, like working out where stuff was and how to get there and always trying to find people who were also trying to find the same place as me. So people were like, oh, I really need to go and like the food shop. I have no idea where to go, but why don't we go together? We can all find out and we can get lost together as well and have to carry our heavy shopping bags all the way back up the hill to Hillhead like perfect. Or find the right lecture on campus as well. I stopped so many people during my first semester. First year like where's first like Macrobert. I don't know where this is. I can't find this building and they'd be like, it's the massive one over there, and would like take me and show me where it was, which is always very nice and very helpful because I was a very timid first year student.

**Rian** [00:14:08] Yeah. Yeah, it was same for me, with finding an accessible entrance. I remember for my first lecture I was completely terrified. Like I didn't know how to get into William Guild lecture theatre, which is the biggest one on campus, I believe. And I did not know how to get in there. So I managed to find this girl on my course and we managed to find it together. I was so worried about being late for my first lecture. But you'll find a lot of people on campus are really helpful, really want to help, especially if it's like a senior who maybe wants to procrastinate. Like if you find a lost first year, you're like, it's OK. I'll help you. But there's a lot of good samaritans on campus who will help if you just ask them, you know, and sometimes we don't know where it is either. Like, it's kind of over there, but I'm not quite sure how to explain.

**Natalie** [00:15:45] I'll just take you to it. I know how to get there, but I can explain how to get there because there's like six different steps.

**Michaela** [00:15:52] Right. You actually mentioned that you have some accessibility struggles sometimes. And you did a really good video that we have on our website. We're going to link this in the show notes where you do a wheelchair accessible campus tour. So we're going to link this in the show notes if anyone's interested to see it from Rian's viewpoint. But yeah, that was like my experience is very similar. And I also found that the employees, you know, like the porters on campus, whenever we came across them, they were really fantastic. And you just felt safe. Whatever you asked one, you were like. I am so sorry, but I don't know how to get into this building and the porters would just take you around, they were lovely, lovely guys and yeah, and so since we were talking about what it is like to find your lectures and what you do between classes and this sort of stuff, how about societies? I know you mentioned that sometimes you might have, like, you know, an event in between lectures, but where there are, for example, like society events or guest lectures that you would attend.

**Rian** [00:17:02] Yeah. For me as a Politics and IR student, PIR had a lot of talks, that I would go to and they were quite interesting. They were done by lecturers who were experts in their field. And they did one on the recent election that we had, 2019 election. And that was really quite interesting perspective and analysis on that. It gave you more than what we were taught in class. Why and the hell you guys will be there and think about it. But if you want to attend a talk, then you find out what you're thinking and whether or not it would be a good degree subject. You find out what your niche is. You come to uni and you think about your dissertation. There were a few disability ones and I'd recommend getting into those as well. I went to a few English ones, a few archaeology ones in my time just to see what they were. They were about quite modern topics, a lot of like Middle Earth archaeology. It's not just stuff you'd learn in class, it's actually what you might be interested in with a different take on it. And that could make you think a bit more about, you know, what you can use your degree for.

**Michaela** [00:19:01] Yeah, Natalie, you do English with creative writing, so you probably find inspiration in a lot of different areas. Did you find that that like, you know, not being just in your little slot in English helped you sort of see what's out there and helped you with deciding what sort of dissertation topic you might do and that stuff?

**Natalie** [00:19:22] Yeah, I did. I find it really useful, I think, especially in first and second year as well, because we in English we only had one compulsory English course each semester. So all the other courses could be other things. And you can go and try different courses in different subjects and stuff, which is really interesting and useful. But also I during my time at uni, I would attend lots and lots of different societies so that I could see what everyone was up to and what the sort of like culture was with and all the different sites, what the people were like mean lots of different people trying to learn new skills and stuff, which I found really helpful, and especially sort of like going into my dissertation, which was a creative writing dissertation as well. So I it was a bit different to what most people's are. I just had to write a long story for my dissertation, no crazy research or anything needed for it, but I found that I could pull from experiences and from people that I'd met through societies and through all the different courses and stuff that I did. It was sort of like flesh out the story that I created.

**Michaela** [00:20:30] Yeah, my dissertation, I didn't really know what I was going with, you know, my life in general and for my dissertation. I found that once I started taking classes from outside of necessarily just politics and international relations, it started informing my research further. So in my dissertation, I put on experiences and classes that I took from management. I took some Spanish as well. So, you know, that was like they gave me a different perspective from like the Latin American studies side. And there was just a lot of different things that came into my single honours politics degree from the other areas. And also because you usually when you're in classes like ours, you know, in our type of degree, arts and humanities, you usually would have like, say, five, six hours of lectures and then you would have per week and then you would have like four, five, six hours. So, you know, there's not that much time that you actually spend in lectures and in tutorials, most of the time you will be doing your own research. So it's important to sort of, you know, see where it takes you. You will definitely find something that interests you more than other things. And then you can read more and do more of your own research and also as you go on throughout your degree. So as you go on through your degree, you will start to get more chances to specialise into something that you want. So, Natalie, you said you had one compulsory class in your first year. I presume in your second year you might have had one or two. And that's what everyone has to do. So you might have like a hundred people in your same degree doing that exact same class in the first two years.

But as you go on into your third and fourth year, that's when you get to start specialising into like an area that you're interested in. So for me, it was terrorism and wars, you know, all this sunny and fun stuff and other specialised, for example, on just Scottish politics. So that's when you get to do like a very specific path in the final two years that you do. So that's also at that point, you sort of have already tried other things and you know what you like, and that allows you to then start focussing on what you want to do in the future. Did you guys find that as well? In the first couple of years, it was quite general. And then in the last two years, that's when you go to really pick what you want to do.

**Rian** [00:23:05] Yeah, I mean, I think luckily being on arts and humanities, it is about your whole life experience. Being a geography student, geography is everywhere and everything we did, from public planning and stuff, you find that everywhere. You can't escape from it and doing international relations and politics, it impacts your everyday life. You pretty much you get inspiration from everywhere, you know, just like going to the shops, you're going to the park and stuff you and get really invested. I think what I want to do is public planning and my dissertation is going to be on conservation. So like, you know, it's everywhere. You know, it's part of our daily life. But you don't realise that until you study it. With arts and humanities, it's all there. The whole world is kind of your lab, that is a bit corny. But you can research people and see, like, you know what? They're really serious about how they feel about that. And that's what's really interesting about arts and humanities, just like the people and how that way affects, you know, the places and stuff, how people affect things and just behavioural stuff. And I just feel when I think about where you get your inspiration from, just from what your friends, from people in radio, from people you meet in the city on the way in the bus stop. And that's all like geography for me, my geography research, you know, that's part of my research. It never leaves. Yeah. You know, I mean, like, I might leave a class, but the stuff that you take from that class that you actually develop into something more. At the beginning you might think, I'm not ever quite interested in this. So for me, it was conservation, the conservation course and it really just took off for the dissertation topic for me. So that's where I came from. And that's something I've always been into and my entire life. But I just never realised until I took that course, it's just a light bulb goes off.

**Natalie** [00:25:24] Yeah, I would agree for sure. The courses that we got to do in third and fourth year were so very different to the English courses that we did in first and second year just because they were very focussed on like specific topics. So like, for instance, one of my courses in third year was Page n Stage, which is all about Renaissance plays and Renaissance poetry. But at the same time, I was also doing a modernism course. So looking at sort of more 20th century writing at the same time. And it was really interesting for me now that I've completed the whole four years, my English degree, I realised that at the time, I perhaps didn't think that I was taken in that much and learnt that much like, you know, making sense of everything that I was learning. But now looking back, I'm like, oh, wow, actually, like when I watch TV or read books or see a movie or even like listen to a podcast, I'm like, oh, I get this reference. No, this is from like this, you know, Shakespeare play. Ah, I understand where this like rhyme scheme has come from are like there's lots of like little bits and pieces and just sort of all the media that we consume these days that pulls from pieces of literature and stuff across the years that I definitely would not have picked up on otherwise. And it gives us a deeper understanding of our deep level of meaning to the media that I am watching or reading or listening to.

**Michaela** [00:26:46] So what you've been saying so far, that sort of brings up another topic for me right now, a lot of people are sort of like thinking, you know, when you go into a degree that sounds a little bit more theoretical or a little bit, you know, and a bit dreamier

than other degrees. Like, for example, you know, if you go and become a doctor or you study medicine, you will become a doctor. That's pretty clear. But when we go and study English, when we study geography, when we studied politics or even things like film and visual culture, you know, people might be wondering what is there at the end for you? You know, what sort of career will you do and what you've been studying so far? You know, that really brings to life that it gives you so many different skills that are transferable, that make you look at the world in a different way. And that's what employers also come in, employers are not necessarily looking for someone who's got you know, if you want to become a journalist, you don't have to study journalism. Any of us could become journalists because we've acquired those skills throughout those four years of research, of writing, of team work. So there's a lot of different skills that you take away just from attending those classes and attending those tutorials and working on different projects with others. So that's really something that, you know, if you're if you are thinking about applying for one of our arts and humanities degrees and you're a little bit worried about what you will do afterwards, we're here to tell you, don't worry, because it's really you know, it's got such wide application after you finish your university degree, you know, you can just really go anywhere and do anything. Natalie, you did some writing for our student newspaper, is that right?

**Natalie** [00:28:34] Yeah, I did. I did like an opinion piece. And previous to that, in my second year, I did some article right and stuff and really easy to get involved with as well. So The Gaudie is the student newspaper like you just have to send a little message on Facebook or to like this email address or whatever, saying, hey, I want to get involved in this and you can go along to the meetings or you can just write something and send it and say, hey, I've written this is something that you would like to print as well and they'll get back to you. It's very, very simple, very chill. And obviously it's all run by students as well. So, like, you know, you're not necessarily having to commit to being like, OK, I'm going to write like an article every single week and have like a bunch of stuff done because everyone knows, like, we've got classes, we've got essays, we've got exams, like everyone's schedules, a bit different. So if you really want to write maybe one or two things through your whole time at uni, that's fine. Like if you think you got a topic you really, really want to write on, then you can write on that. If you are wanting to do something that's a bit more structured, like a weekly or like every two weeks, once a month or something, and you can do that as well, like it's very easy to get involved in.

**Michaela** [00:29:49] And what you're saying as well applies to our student radio and our student TV station. So we've got we've got a newspaper, we've got a TV station, we've got a radio station. And those are like our media outlets that are run entirely by students where you can get involved in any capacity. And I think that's another great source of getting work experience, but also getting skills as well, because you can get transferable skills that well, you know, you can then put on your CV when you leave and you don't necessarily have to want to be the radio DJ to get involved in the radio. You know, it can give you skills and website development, editing, just organising in general teamwork, that sort of stuff. So it's helpful to get involved. And I know you guys, both of you are also on the content creators team for the student life where you produce content for current students from the university. And that's where you, Rian, did that video for wheelchair tour through campus. And you, Natalie, you are also involved in creating some videos for the university. So that's another great source of, you know, just getting a wealth of different experiences. And whatever you're applying for afterwards, you will find some skills where you can pull that up from your experiences at uni. And I think it's very important to do stuff in addition to your degree as well, because once you leave university, you don't want to be necessarily just talking about how you were amazing at studying, you know, like you got first class.

You want to also show that you've been involved with the community. You did this, you did a little bit of that. I think it's very nice to show that, you know, you dabbled around and you got different social skills and that sort of stuff. And when you're writing your CV and your covering letters for different jobs or internships, that's where you realise that you're pulling out all of these different skills that you gained across the different university experiences from part time jobs, but also just from, I don't know, volunteering on campus during Freshers Week, if you get involved in that capacity or like you guys in content creation across the university, when you worked with senior people at the university to create something for current students. So there's a lot of different things that you definitely should do while you're at university. I guess it's fun, but also it's for your future, so that's really good

**Natalie** [00:32:19] for sure, I think if there is something you want to try out, if you're like, oh, I've always wanted to go into like film and TV, like joining the Granite City TV, the student TV station, is a great opportunity to try that out and see if that is actually for you, because I know for myself, like I had always as a teenager, had dreams of like, oh, going in and doing like movie stuff and that I like tried and I was like, actually this is the practical aspect, the glamorisation of it in my own mind, was great. And then when you're actually like and maybe this isn't for me, but I then found that there was other stuff that I enjoyed more so like I enjoyed doing like concerts and I enjoyed doing like the weightlifting society as well. And that was something I had never tried before I came to uni. And I'm like, oh, this is actually cool. And like I enjoy doing this as like a form of exercise. So it's a great chance to try things and work out what exactly as you do and don't enjoy as well for moving forward.

**Michaela** [00:33:20] And you're involved in some committees, is that right, with the student association.

**Rian** [00:33:27] Yeah. I'm part of the trans forum and the disability forum, and I'm also the vice president of the geography society. So we basically do like a deep dive for disabled students more and try and help, like with me attending classes and also with the centre academic development and the dean of students support who really gave us the backing for this. And we've been up there with like the top people. And it had a really good impact, like lectures and like the quality of teaching, you know, especially during these times. And from the geography society, just been really fun, it is my degree and we get together a lot, we got out quite a lot of games night. But people enjoy it, too. I mean, in a society it is nice to share, like someone who loves the subject as much as you wants to talk about more than just what you're getting to go up. We can chat about more than what we're supposed to read or get taught in lectures. But we just read an article about it and you can just discuss it, you know. And also it looks great on your transcript, you apply to have it on your transcript and it looks great, ohhh you were the president of this society, you're involved in this one, and you did this. And that looks really great on your academic transcript. I mean, you know, you've done more than just attend classes. You've actually made an impact on the community nearby, speaking out for people. As a politics student, that's also very much down my alley, this sort of like activism and stuff. So really just find out what you're interested in, you sometimes get it through life experience and sometimes it's just something you're interested in. I've made a difference just in my three years of being here. And that's a really great feeling. I just like helping people. So like, I guess like depending on what I enjoy and, you know, finding that there's a bit more to your degree and a bit more to your university experience if you're a part of all this. I can make a lot of good friends as well. Like because sometimes I feel like you don't always make friends as easily. And it's kind of hard to make friends like you are not in a society. You suddenly like



find people that are either within your degree or have the same interest as you. So you make friends quite easily through it. Like a pub crawl, we do meet and greet for geography students and that's always where fun can you get to, like, get all your students together week, first year and you get to talk to people and have pizza for free. I think we are engaging with the community, which I think is something that, you know, should be emphasised more, having fun at university, it is not just studying 24/7, just having fun and just enjoying the experience of being on campus.

**Michaela** [00:37:38] Yeah, absolutely. I think this would be a great place to wrap it up because we've been talking about such inspirational topics near the end here. I would like to ask you one last parting question. Can you guys think of the one class that you liked the best? What was, like the most standout class for you throughout your four years? And I'm going to start and I'm going to say that I took Vikings in History and it was just called Vikings!. And that was a really interesting history class that I took outside of my degree. But somehow it was more interesting than all the other ones. So this was a really good one. What about you guys? Do you have a standout? Modules that you took.

**Natalie** [00:38:28] I have stand out one for my degree and outside my degree, can I do both? Within my degree was definitely modernism. That was my absolute favourite English course. It was brilliant. Just like the books and the literature and stuff that we studied was great. Outside I loved the counselling skills courses, there's like four of them, so to them through first and second year and they are really focussed on like developing skills that aren't necessarily academic. It was like active listening skills and being able to like relate to other people, develop in sort of ways to sort of help people and help yourself. It really, really interesting.

**Michaela** [00:39:13] Yeah, I'm going to book in a session with you, Natalie. What about you, Rian? Did you have one class that you've really enjoyed?

**Rian** [00:39:23] Like Natalie, I had one outside and one inside my degree. There was one sociology course that talked about society and all these societal rules. And that had an impact on me and my geography dissertation. For geography it was the Marine Conservation. That opened my eyes, I wasn't looking at conservation at all in that way. But when I looked at it from a perspective of a disabled person and you know, wildlife and how much I enjoyed it but also how inaccessible it was and how it's changing, that really opened my eyes and now I know what my dissertation topic is. And, you know, every time I learn something, every time we went into a tutorial, where you have to, like, put my point across and like get into this debate, often people think of wildlife conservation in black and white, and it just blew my mind. It was like I came one day with an opinion and I came out with a different one. And that's what really stuck out for me was just I really learnt something and did a 360 after doing that course. So it just completely changed my direction. And it's now the basis for my dissertation and is the one so far that I really loved.

**Michaela** [00:40:59] Yeah, that sounds really good. And that's exactly what you want to go to uni and do, you know, like find your passion. Well, thank you, Natalie and Rian, for joining me today on this episode. And if anyone is listening, who is considering coming to university from a college Scottish style. So if you're doing an HNC or HND at a Scottish college and you want to transfer into university, join us next week, because next week we are going to be talking to someone who has done that and who has come into a second year of university and how it was for her to transfer. But thank you for joining us today. And again, if you do have any questions, you do feel free to get in touch. And we also have lots of current students available on our website through our UniBuddy live chat, where you

can talk to an actual student and ask them how their experience has been. You can find someone from the exact degree that you want to study and, you know, ask them these questions. You know, what did they do in their free time? What courses did they do that they really like that sort of stuff. So, again, thank you very much. And we hope to hear from you soon.

**Voiceover** [00:42:11] 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](mailto:ukteam@abdn.ac.uk). We would love to hear from you to be alerted about new episodes. Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.