

Liam Mills

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Worthing College studying Sociology, Law, Politics, Public Services and the Extended Project. It certainly provided me with a fundamental foundation of knowledge and at the same time guided me to leave with a sense of direction for the future. Upon leaving college I was focussed on starting University, however I must admit, I also had pressing questions: Am I ready to go to Uni? Have I chosen the right course? How will I manage my life away from home? I didn't really know what to expect as I the first person within my family to attend University, therefore it was a whole new experience.

I made the decision to move to Portsmouth to study BSc Sociology and Criminology. My degree course focusses on the study of society, social change and human behaviour. The two subjects have a shared interest in the extent of crime, how society controls crime and how it deals with those who enter the criminal justice system. You've probably been told that studying at University is a totally different ball game to College, it is true. You are completely responsible for your own learning, but you are able to quickly develop as an individual, by becoming more independent, learning to

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think critically and expressing yourself in a clear and concise way.

Alongside University, I work at a GP Healthcare Centre. I wanted a part-time job, which was degree relevant. A highlight of my role, was the opportunity to visit HMP Isle of Wight, a category B sex offenders prison. This enabled me to start to build my network of professionals and have a real insight of the work within prisons to reduce offending and also understand the importance of promoting the wellbeing of those in prison.

I have also been fortunate enough to work with the Hampshire Constabulary in the launch of the first ever Community Court programme in the UK. The

Hampshire Community Court seeks to address youth offending in a restorative focussed approach whereby young people are faced with a panel of peers to hold first-time young offenders to account. They are given a chance to learn and seek to restore the harm caused by their action. In the last two years the opportunities I have gained have included: being interviewed by BBC News, presenting to the office of the Deputy Mayor of London and the Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

Being in my last year and the final term of my degree, I have reached a familiar feeling of uncertainty preparing for the next chapter in my life. I am hoping to graduate from University in July and currently considering the options of either applying directly for graduate positions or continuing my academic study further by doing a Masters or a Diploma. Whatever your decision may be when you finish college, be proud of your skills and achievements, and put your sole effort into gaining as much experience as possible. It is the opportunities you take that will make your academic achievements worthwhile.

