

Raahim 0:00

So my name is Raahim, I come from Pakistan. I'm currently studying women's ware at London College of fashion. I'm in my first year right now. I came to UK in 2010 and I was initially a forensic science and psychology student. And through sort of self discovery and finding my way around, I got involved in fashion. And that kind of pushed me into looking to take it more as an educational route rather than just a hobby.

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I think the biggest doubt to start was was career prospect, like, where is this going to lead me to? And I mean, the evidence is pretty much out there. We've got brilliant designers, the alumni of UAL who have gone and have established their own labels, and are basically now in the big running of the fashion industry. For me, I speak from my own experience, my journey has been really smooth, so far. I have worked hard, like working hard and proving ourselves as a given like, it's not going to get handed over to you like in any field. However, I would suggest that if you want to do it, do it because you've got nothing to lose. Like I've mentally prepared myself, there was a lot of mental preparation, where I had mentally prepared myself to be like, I don't want to be in my 30s and 40s, mid-life, having nervous breakdown, and doing something that I don't really want to do. I will make sure it work out. No is not an answer for me. Because I'm deep in it now, and there's no going back.

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When it comes to the support needed for family and trying to convince them, the big thing is we're in London, it's one of the fashion capitals as a creative capital of the world. Every single creative if they had a chance to study here in higher education would want to do it, especially at an institute like UAL and it's different Institutes. I would say go for it. You're in the right place, you have the resources, there's opportunity, there's room to grow. So, something will come out of it. But at the end of it, you have to work hard.

Raahim 2:09

So that's what I would say to anybody who's coming from a similar background. And I think there's really good network, like the Student Union has different clubs and different community groupS. Like I know we have like a Muslim Islam group. There's like Korean group, like different ethnicities and everything. So you find your people, you find people who you can resonate with, with similar stories behind you. Very much like this interview, like I'm here sitting with a similar background, to be able to share my experience. So there isn't a sense of loneliness, if that makes any sense. There's support. There's a lot of people working with you, for you. So, it's a very nice place to be.