

Molly 0:00

So my name is Mollymand I've always been like really interested in art like since like a young age. I studied art at school, but I didn't, I didn't feel like I wanted to stay on a level. So I decided to take fashion, at the Fashion Retail Academy. And from there I've got really interested in like costume design. And I found out through the Insights Programme about the foundation course here at UAL and I joined that and applied and now I'm here, basically.

Academic Support 0:30

So did you expect to come to university?

Molly 0:33

I've always thought I would come to university to be honest. From school, they always prompt you to go to uni, like that's the thing that they want, but I didn't feel like I was competent enough to go straight to uni. So I thought I'll try out for the foundation here. It was kind of like a push in the direction and like to see more about UAL. Like, I feel like this is a really good way to get an experience of what it's like.

Molly 0:54

I wasn't sure if I was good enough. I know that's like a bad thing to say but I've got a lot of self doubt and I always, like second guess like everything. But uni as well is also, it's a big thing, I didn't know, you know, if it was going to be worth it for me basically. I didn't want to waste my time. I didn't want to, because I've had a lot of people that say... so they've gone and done their degree and they've never really used it. But here I knew that it would be something that would really benefit me in the future. So I've just, I was like, back and forth, back and forth. And I didn't really know anybody here and I was nervous of coming to this big uni environment where everybody is just so incredible, but it wasn't that scary and now I feel like I finally like settled in, like it might have taken a while but I feel like I have properly like settled into uni life now and I'm really really enjoying it.

Academic Support 1:49

So what changed?

Molly 1:53

I think the tutors were a big help. Like I was ... I was constantly saying I'm not sure if this is good enough, like my sketchbook wasn't was like a GCSE, or the projects here are quite short, so I always felt like there wasn't enough time. But yeah the tutors have been really brilliant. And they've basically ...yeah because the sketch books, I didn't think that they were good enough and I felt like coming to uni, they expect more of you but they really don't. They just want it to be like a true expression of yourself basically. And they've just been really, really helpful in like prompting me and like pushing me to be the best that I can be, basically.

Academic Support 2:30

So what would you say to somebody about going to university, particularly someone similar to you?

Molly 2:40

I would say just trust, trust people more, trust in yourself basically that it's not as scary as you think it is. And like you will be able to do it. Even when they tell you that there's a deadline, it's not the end of the world like they're here to help you. Everyone ... everybody here is supportive as well even, like, even the peer support is incredible, like I... haven't met anyone here that's had a bad thing to say about anyone, and everyone's really lovely. I'd tell them to be more confident I guess about it, like try not to second guess it by now that's a bit impossible because you always will, because everybody seems so confident when they come to uni basically, I've always looked at it as ...that they all know what they want to do...they're all so... they just know.. but a lot of people here are really unsure with their future and we're all just kind of wobbling along together and trying to figure ourselves out basically.

Academic Support 3:42

What I'm really impressed about you, Molly, is that you admit to having lacking often in self confidence but you've come to speak now and I'm just curious, what motivated you stick our hand out?

Molly 3:56

Yeah, I was... I've always wanted to, like I do like to speak out, but I just get a bit nervous. So, my tutor was like, you should definitely go for it. So I thought yeah people would like to hear like a side of the story, like especially ... because I still live at home, and I know that a lot of people, who maybe still live at home, don't think that they should be maybe struggling in a way that say an international student because they've had to move country but it is a struggle. I think still living at home, especially like trying to juggle like your life with uni and trying to make sure that everything fits in and I just want people to know that like, you know, you're not alone. That was one thing. When I first came here, I felt quite alone. And I felt like there was nobody that would talk to me basically, or could understand what I was going through. But I've seen now through speaking to everyone that there is a lot of people in like a situation of feeling like a bit like not confident in themselves and all that kind of stuff... but yeah.

Academic Support 4:54

And one of the things that international students talk about is they lack confidence in their English. So could you talk about what it's like as an English speaker, being around students for whom English is a second language?

Molly 5:09

It's a really great experience. Like there's all the different cultures and everything like that. They may not be able to say, express with words, but because it's like a creative subject, you can express everything for your drawings and your paintings and everything. Like there's never a time where you have to be like, forced to speak. And a lot of it does come through like your, your work, and I've learned so much. Like the other day there was these girls and they made a tiny little miniature set of like some Chinese temple and it was like incredible and she was explaining all this kind of things and you just learned so much from all these different people from around the world.

Academic Support 5:46

What about research and studying things?

Molly 5:49

Okay. So research, I think, especially here is really important. But as long as it doesn't have to be like massive pages like I spent like at a level and GCSE and college, they want, like beautifully presented like sketchbook work here as long as you get it down. That's, that's a really big thing. Another thing I would have liked to know, reflective writing, that's, that's a big thing here... you just keep a journal and all your thoughts and your ideas and your processes. And I think for international students that can be a bit tricky trying to write in another language, but there's loads of like learning support here and everything, they can always help with that. But they are trying to keep track of your ideas in a journal. It's quite tricky, but you get used to it. You know, when you... if you write next to a piece, you say, I did this and this is why it was the reflective journal can be anything you can do in there. You can say, you can do flow charts and all that kind of stuff. And I think it's just about a way to break down your ideas. They give you a lot of support on how to do it. And at the end of the day, as long as you get your ideas down and we can, they can, see like your process, that's what they want, basically.

Academic Support 6:56

And is it useful? Has it been... do you see the value of reflecting writing?

Molly 7:00

Yeah, I think it's, I think it's really good because for me, like I've got, I like to write things down anyway, I like to list things and I like to make sure you know, everything gets done. So in there, it just lets you go through like what you've done in the day, and it shows you all the different things that you've thought through and you can just write ideas as they come into your head and then work through it from there.

Academic Support 7:23

Just tell me a bit about London as an inspiration or not, for your design work. What's the advantage or disadvantage of studying in London?

Molly 7:34

For me, like I've always love London, I think I'm really lucky to be studying in London personally, there's so many people that you talk to, the international students and they will they're always like, I can't believe you actually live here and all that kind of stuff. Like the resources that we have here are incredible. They've got all the ... all the different like theatres, especially for my course. Basically, you've got all the museums and all the art exhibitions and everything. Where the college is situated, there's a lot of stuff going on around there. There's always there's always something going on, I think. And in terms of like inspiration, it really just depends on like, the person because I can take it from anything and everything. And I think London is a great place, but that there's so many people and you can just get so much inspiration.

Academic Support 8:24

And are there other things, thinking of that frightened person sitting in their bedroom somewhere in the world, thinking about whether to come to UAL?

Molly 8:35

So I mean, I have been that person, I still kind of am that person. I've got my interviews coming up and I'm really nervous for them. But I know that you just have to believe in yourself basically, it sounds very cliché, but there comes a point where you just have to get up and you have to do it and you have to say to yourself, I am good enough and I do deserve this place as much as anybody else and you in UAL and the experience that you will get from it is like, you won't get it anywhere else I think studying in London and especially with UAL is just a, it's a really great experience, I think.

Academic Support 9:14

Molly, what can I say? Thank you very much, in particular, it's so important to hear your voice, and any thoughts about the future?

Molly 9:23

I'm really hoping to still stay within UAL, like I've applied to all the courses in UAL, and hopefully get a job in film, to do with that, basically. I like costume design, obviously. So I'm hopefully gonna go into that.

Academic Support 9:37

And has this last five months changed your view? Have you changed?

Molly 9:43

I've definitely I've definitely changed. Like when I when I first came here, I didn't really talk to anybody about anything but now that's why I feel like I can talk to you about this because I've just... it's such a nice, like, open environment and you can really be yourself here. I've always thought that like pressures of uni and you have to be somebody, and I've always been trying to be myself but still trying to, you know, fit into what I think people want, but you should just do exactly what you want and I feel like now I've become a better version of myself.

Academic Support 10:21

Thank you so much.

Molly 10:22

Thank you.