

Jade 0:00

My name is Jade. I am from Melbourne in Australia and I finished my Year12, doing studio art, which was more in like painting, printmaking and drawing. And then I also did theatre, so I did theatre design and acting. And then I did Visual Communication Design, which was all about, obviously communications and looking at typographic and text and also architecture. So I came over here thinking that I was kind of heading towards more of a Fine Art pathway. But I think once I'd given everything a go and it really opened my mind during this course, which was awesome.

Mim 0:38

Hi, my name is Miriam but most people call me Mim. I am from Maidenhead, which is a town in Berkshire, so it's like a suburb of London, so I travel in every day. I did A Levels last year. I did art, drama and history, at a very normal school, in my local town. And yeah, and I got into this course and I'm doing the foundation now. My family is quite creative, like I... my mom, has worked a lot in theatre, and opera and things like that, but not really sort of seriously arty or anything. I'm from quite a big family. I've got two brothers. And, yeah no, I really wants to come to London. And yeah, Camberwell just always looked so amazing and exciting. And yeah, so I got in, and that's that.

Jade 1:25

I come from quite a business-ey family. No, there's no one that's particularly artsy or creative... well my mom is creative. But I've never been one of those people surrounded by music and art, at a very young age. So it was not until high school that I kind of went through that pathway. And it opened my eyes to that. And coming here, it's been a complete shift. And it's just... I'm constantly surrounded by other creative people, which is also... it is amazing. And it's ... I feel like I've really found people that are like me, not saying that where I come from isn't particularly creative. But yeah, it's definitely different, like a culture shock in the sense that everyone's more open minded to art, and just pretty much everything, it's just a completely different way of living, which is awesome. Because it is such a big change, you know, coming internationally, not just coming from the UK, I was obviously worried about living here by myself, but the people here have been so welcoming and warm. And it's been, yeah, they've been very helpful in the transition of coming over here.

Mim 2:31

I think for me, I can't even begin to explain how free is here. Like you can literally, honestly, you don't have to be able to do beautiful drawings of fruit bowls and faces. But I mean, if you can, then you perfectly allowed to go and do that yourself. But, because it's UAL, I was really scared that I was gonna be really out of my depth. And I was really, really self conscious about my art. But the minute you get here, you're super relaxed.

Jade 2:55

I was really, I was really happy coming and seeing the wide range of mediums and different materials people using for all their artwork, it was honestly... It was really cool because, you know, I'm so used to just the teacher telling you 'just do a painting and fit the criteria and meet the checklist'. But here, it's really, it's more conceptual in the sense that you're allowed to do anything you want, as long as you can justify it, and you know what you're doing.

Mim 3:20

Yeah, but also feel there are briefs, so people... because some people really like having a brief ...and some people really like following a guideline and they can't work by themselves. And I think that is definitely that as well. But if you, if that's the way you work, it's just the best of both worlds really.

Jade 3:34

And because obviously in high school, you... the teachers there, they kind of guide you through the work. Here, you obviously have more freedom and the teacher isn't behind your back constantly, but they are amazing teachers in there when you need them, which is awesome, because they truly are helpful if you ask them and they will give you their full attention and really go all out for whatever you need.

Mim 3:53

I think it's definitely the difference between Sixth Form or college or whatever you've done before and like maybe higher education in general, is that you can sort of make ... you can mould it to fit you, can't you? We're given... well, we're doing design at the moment. And I think probably that is more project like lead just for the nature...

Jade 4:12

...nature of design, to be given a brief.

Mim 4:14

We've got friends in like Fine Art and in Communication and, you know, you're give projects to work with... work from ... so you know, some people have come here, some people have come not even doing art A Level or anything. I met people that... I feel it's worth to say ... because some people came in they did like maths, chemistry and biology, like A Level, and didn't do art. Sorry, that's like a bit of a side note, but...

Jade 4:36

Yeah, no know, it's honestly, it's open for anyone. It is so, so welcoming, and everyone just wants to learn. So it's honestly just taking the plunge and just believing in what you're doing. And even if you are a shy person, you will meet other shy people as well. You know, it's honestly, there's no one in your face constantly, if you want to go off and work by yourself, and just, you know, pull along and just get everything done. You're more than able to do that, you know.

Jade 5:02

I think coming as a non English speaking student internationally, it is, it is awesome for people that don't speak the language to learn more about other people's culture. And we have girls in our class and guys that have come over and bring their culture with them and using their art to display that it is so great as another student coming, not knowing anything about that culture, to learn. And I think if they're nervous about the language barrier, and the fact that they might be, you know, misheard or not understood, I think it's awesome.

Mim 5:35

So you can go and speak to people, if you've got any issues, and they're constantly there, like the language support sort of staff do come into our lessons a lot and things like that. So, if it is a really big issue, then there is help there. And also just the

fact that there are so many international students, I think it's not sort of like your weirdo or you're by yourself or there's no one like you, I think it they do... there's a large proportion of international students, so you're not by myself.

Mim 6:02

One thing I didn't really know is that it's generally three days a week, and at the moment, we start at like 10:30. And then it's till like 4:30. So, I think if you're commuting, you know, it's not like you have to wake up at like 5:30am to make some hefty commute into London. Also, because it's three days a week, they're like four days, so it'll be like a school day. But it means that I've been able to work alongside college, which is been really helpful, obviously, if you need to earn money and stuff like that.

Jade 6:31

Yeah

Mim 6:32

I didn't realise how good the connections were with UAL after the connections are incredible, just in the sense that once you've got a place, there is so much opportunity for you, if you want to study within UAL, later on, it's a really great transition into getting into the courses you want to. So, if you know, if you're doing fine art painting, there's really good connections with Chelsea, like Wimbledon, Camberwell, and then also like CSM and LCF, and stuff like that. Like, I mean, if you know, if you want to go further, they bring lecturers in and stuff like that. It's just really really good connections. Yeah.

Jade 7:14

And the fact that, you know, people aren't there to push you and get the work through, it's what you put in, is what you'll get out. And I think knowing that coming here, you will then be more optimistic and use everything that you get as an advantage and just think more optimistic.

Mim 7:30

Like, it's not... I don't think it's Camberwell or UAL this course and ticket, I think the biggest difference between studying at A level and higher is that is sort of your problem now, like, it is your responsibility. If you don't want to work hard, if you don't want to turn up, like no one, you know, no can force you now, or you're 18. You know, it's your own life, you don't have to study anymore. So I think definitely, it's yeah, it's as much as you get out of it. So as much as you put in you'll get out. So if you want to come and you want to come every day, you know, on time, and you want to work the full day, and then you want to go home and you do your own work and in your free days you spend loads of time doing work, then obviously, you're going to get a great portfolio to take to degree courses and stuff like that, and you're gonna really get so much out of the year. But, if you don't ever turn up, you don't do any of your work, then, yeah, you have two assessments during the year, which aren't like super stressful, it's not... it's not really about grades but it's just about assessing if you're actually doing the work. So, if you get to your part one assessment, and you've literally done nothing for the first six weeks, then you will be what they call, like referred and you have to like catch up so... so it is very....

Jade 8:43

There's no like particular criteria that, you know... they want you to obviously do the research and develop your ideas and document all that in the sketchbook, because that is so important. But there's no, you know, structure like there is when you go into A Levels.

Mim 8:56

Oh my gosh, the best thing is that... I mean, some people love it, but I hated it, like the A Level sketch books. They're to be like work of art and just really pretty and neat and perfect. But then some people do love that structure. So there are people who sketch books are very much like...

Jade 9:11

a piece of art itself....

Mim 9:12

Yeah, and it's perfect and it's beautifully covered. And it's literally like an A Level sketchbook. But then there are people who... I don't know... maybe work better, like on the laptop, when they have sort of a portfolio they're like curating on their laptop. Or other people maybe like us small sketchbooks and notebooks and stuff, and will get all of their research in those. There's no set way of doing anything. It is not all like we're going to sit down or all going to do the term 2 sketchbook and we're going to do page one and we're going to do the title page. And you know, it's not like that.

Jade 9:41

Yeah, and something else as an international student coming over to London in particular. And just having the city in the connections is... I knew, coming over, that there is inspiration everywhere in terms of theatre and shows and arts and galleries that you can go to. But I think just keeping up to date with that kind of thing. Because there are just so many exhibitions that you can go to, that will constantly be research and constantly be an inspiration that you can develop and use and your folio and talk to your teachers about. And I think just having a bigger understanding and a greater depth of knowledge in that area in the field that you're going into, is definitely really useful. You know, if you keep your knowledge updated, and it is really helpful to develop your work and have more inspiration to keep going.

Mim 10:27

I feel like research is so much more than just looking on Wikipedia and stuff. Like drawing is research, photos are research, going to all different types of museums, not just art galleries, looking at books, and stuff like that. But I also feel like, but I don't feel like it's essential to like to prepare for this course, you know, you don't have to suddenly become like Einstein or something before you come and just bury your head in a book. But I feel like it's definitely... I think it's worth understanding before you come... it sounds really cheesy, but like what are you like... what type of art do you like? You know, it's now not about what your art teacher wants you to make and what type of art your art teacher likes, or your fellow artist students or whatever? This is your time now to start thinking about what you really want to do what you really like, and what you really want to make. So yeah, just maybe have a think about that.

Jade 11:19

I totally agree. And I think also, if you ask someone that's gone through school, doing a loving art, but not particularly knowing exactly what pathway that you want to do, it is really great during the diagnostic mode, because that was exactly what I did. And I was so set that I was going to do fine art painting, which is what I did when I finished school but coming here now, it kind of brought up my love for theatre, being in London, seeing more shows. And I was like no, I really love design of theatre and screen. And just being able to do that for a week, even, in the diagnostic mode was like, okay, that's what yeah, I want to do.

Mim 11:56

I came here with quite a determined head that I wanted to do design, and then like design for theatre and screen performance. I feel like it works both ways. If you are someone that looks come in and you think, yeah, my mission is to get on to this painting course...my mission is to do this graphics course... and I'm going to do graphics and I'm going to do you know my portfolio and that then that's fine. Or you could come with no idea, you love art, you love design, you just want to sort of feel it and then figure it out. Like here... like it's totally fine for either. Yeah, I feel like London is a big deal. You'll make friends and you'll go to events together in London and you'll find your own events. So it's a big, because there is... that's the beauty of London because there is so much going on. Like you could go out every single night of the week for every single day and night of the year because there's always something going on. Yeah, like I've got friends in campus unis doing English and history and things like that. And yeah, it just is quite different.

Jade 12:54

Yeah, I'm not staying in student accommodation attached to UAL but the people that have talked about it have really been enjoying that and because there are people from obviously from UAL staying with them and I think people have made friends and connections that way.

Mim 13:08

One of my friends, she's doing Illustration first year at Camberwell and her flat is literally a mixture of UAL students. So she's got, I think, she's got two foundation students, three first year students across like different UAL colleges. So there's I think she's got like a LCC student.

Jade 13:26

Yeah, all working in a range of different mediums.

Mim 13:29

So it's all UAL together. It's mixed up. So it's not like you have these big cliques in accommodation and stuff where it's like, 'oh, we've got a flat of just, you know, LCF students'... I don't know.

Jade 13:39

And again, I think the people that I've met here are just so lovely. Especially coming from overseas, I was so scared that I wasn't gonna make any friends. But instantly on the first day, I met people and we've been friends for the whole you know... we're now, five months, we've been here? Six month? Five months that we've been here and I've been friends with them since day one and it's been really cool.

Mim 13:59
Yeah.