

Veronique 0:00

Well, my name is Veronique and I'm originally from Miami Beach. My mom's American and my dad's Dutch. And so, about seven years ago, we moved over to England and I went to an international school in Surrey, then I went to an international school in Kent. And then I came to UAL. I kind of wanted to work mostly on films, but I thought it should be a little bit more diverse if I were to go into any type of like television or film world. So, I decided to apply for Live Events and Television, just so I can get like all aspects of it, really. Yeah, I mostly wanted to work in horror films, though. But yeah, I just wanted to switch it up a little bit.

Academic Support 0:44

And what a few experiences we'd like at UAL so far?

Veronique 0:48

Um, it's quite a nice school, actually. The classes are kind of different from what I expected, but not necessarily in a negative way. I haven't really done too many of the social things here too much. But I've heard they're pretty good and I heard they're well planned out, as I expected. For now, we've kind of just been working on setting up events, which is something I'm a little bit interested in, but not too much but hopefully we will change up a little bit. And, um in the first year, I wasn't really feeling the course way too much, but it worked out at the end because when I came back, we were doing a lot more stuff I was interested in. So, I'm glad I stick through the course because a lot of people were thinking about changing but I was just like I'm already in this, so I might as well continue. And I think that was a positive thing for me to do.

Academic Support 1:43

How do you manage your time on the first year and second year...you must have had a heavy workload, how do you manage it?

Veronique 1:50

Well, I think personally that they have the assignments are due on a really good times. We don't have to go into school that many times, so we actually have time to finish work, which is the thing I complained about a lot in high school. It just seems that the time schedule just always seems to work out. I do wish it was a little better when it comes to deciding like what are the actual classes they want to have. Because sometimes they just have like random schedules. Like usually people in UAL they have Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as classes. But ours changes every week. I work for a production studio now. But there's a lot of things I wanted to do that I couldn't just because I didn't know my schedule. So ...

Academic Support 2:32

Were you very nervous about coming to us at the beginning. And have you settled in?

Academic Support 2:36

I mean, on the first day, I probably just had like a first day type of scare. But, I've always been in environments where there's a lot of like international students or people from everywhere, just like students in general. So, I wasn't really expecting a drastic change, especially knowing it's an art school, like I knew there wouldn't be

too much pressure, then let's say if I wasn't like some American, like, really preppy school, so I just knew that the energy would be different. So I didn't come with too much of a negative attitude towards it.

Academic Support 3:05

And how did you expect the energy to be?

Veronique 3:06

Um, people have asked me that a lot. I don't, I don't really know, I was like expecting to see from the students or necessarily anything just because when I was living in Miami, I went to a performing arts school. So, I was kind of expecting, I don't know, people to always show their talent, in some type of way. But here... everything's like web based or drawing base, so there would really be nothing to show like that. So, I just thought it would be more of a social school as em like... other universities that I've heard of, around London. Like, they usually seem to be very social, and they have a sense of community in ours. And I wouldn't say from my own eyes, that it's not as social as those schools, but I don't really mind that.

Academic Support 3:46

Okay, and how has diversity and inclusivity played a role in UAL for you?

Veronique 3:54

That's a good question. Um, I think this is a pretty diverse school, I've been to a lot of schools throughout my life, and most of them more majority white, or just like European in general. So, going to a school where there's more than five black people or five, just people of colour in general, was pretty different. And I was actually talking about this with my roommate, it kind of feels like there's more of a community, and it's just seems more comfortable. Being surrounded by different things in general, just makes me more comfortable. So it's kind of that way.

Academic Support 4:28

Moving on to research, actually, because I'm sure you do a lot of research. What does it mean to you? What is .... what is research for you?

Veronique 4:34

Well, in our course, it's ... we don't have too much essays. But we sometimes do at the end of the semester, of course, with term, or whatever it's called here. And we have to do a lot of research for certain assignments. And I'm not the best researcher, I would say, I just know a lot of random facts. But when it comes to actually citing it, and where it comes from, I have no idea, usually, I'm pretty lost. But the researching part, I mean, just getting facts and giving people their credit ... it's a good thing, I guess. But in regards to my course and the researching... it's a lot.

Academic Support 5:12

How do you manage it?

Veronique 5:15

I've been having other students actually help me who are better with the grammar and stuff like that. And they actually taught me how to properly do it through other websites of how to like, reference, and research and like writing it in paragraphs. So,

that's kind of helped me. So, as long as I have the reference and I know how to go back to it, it helps me complete my research more, in like a more efficient way. So, I've learned that only in like the past year. So, it's kind of embarrassing, but at least I've learned in general,

Academic Support 5:43

It's great that students are helping you. And the support from other academics, are you able to reach out to them? Are they accessible?

Veronique 5:50

Um, well, just recently, last term, we were working with another course, I think they're just television, just a television course. And I was working with that teacher a lot and he was very helpful. But, um, yeah, we definitely have other influences from other teachers, which really help. The thing I like about my course is the teachers all have diverse jobs. So one's a documentary, one works in costume, one works in design like, I think that's pretty helpful within it. So, I have a lot of different aspects of teachers. So that's pretty good.

Academic Support 6:25

Can you explain maybe a couple of instances where they have had a high influence in your work?

Veronique 6:31

We had to design a play and the stage for it, and it had to be set in the 50's. And, I have a lot of time periods that I'm obsessed with and like, appreciate, but these I would say it's not really the best one. And our teacher, she likes specialises specifically in the 50's and like, everything that went on in that era. And I just had no idea and she really helped me on it. So, that was definitely interesting to see a teacher specifically know about that and help me specifically for it.

Academic Support 7:05

So you're coming very close to your major [project] ar'nt you soon? You're second year, right? What have you ... what are the influences in giving you direction for your major?

Veronique 7:16

For my final year? I mean, just certain teachers are just telling us just to follow through with everything and make sure you get everything done. Don't be too focused on trying to be like the star student. So, that really helps. I'm glad that's not the pressure we have here. Um, the third question, 'cos I don't... I don't really know exactly ...exactly what I'd want to do in the future. I just know, I definitely would want to work within event-making in just film, in general. But, at the moment, um.. definitely know that I would want to work on horror films within this.

Academic Support 7:55

Why horror films?

Veronique 7:57

I don't know. I'm really interested in sounds and just costume design ...just every aspect of film that's not taken into character with other genres.

Academic Support 8:08

So on the whole, your whole experience has been quite good at UAL. And if there was any one...well, a couple of things you would say to any new student, what would it be?

Veronique 8:19

Just don't expect too much, I'd say. People come in here with very high expectations and thinking that this is going to be a crazy college experience...but it's really just uni. Like people are here to learn and go, but you can take it into your own hands and obviously make friends within that but don't expect it to be like other uni's, where there's like parties within their school every day and stuff like that. It's just not how it works, because people are busy. So...

Academic Support 8:50

And having gone through the first and the second year of your study, you're in the middle of your second year, if you were to tell your young self, before approaching UAL, what would you say to do differently?

Veronique 9:01

Probably I'd do the assignments much earlier than the due date. Bring lunch into school. Um.. just don't expect too much. I didn't really walk in with too many expectations but nothing has really let me down. So, there's nothing I would really change that much.

Academic Support 9:24

Have you done any collaborative projects with the students that has worked well for you, and if not, would it be something that you would do and why?

Veronique 9:33

I have worked on a couple of shoots and everything and I've worked with a couple of projects with sound. So, I've been just working with random people just hoping to get projects that I can add to my CV. I'm working with quite a lot of people in Art Direction, just trying to get as much work experience as I can and just try out all these different roles that I don't usually do, just to see if I like it. So...

Academic Support 10:02

Um, is there anything else that you would add perhaps, to any new students that come on board a UAL?

Veronique 10:11

Definitely say, sign up for the Academic Support because I've only been to one session, but it definitely helped me when I did. So, just sign up for all the Academic Support things you can. You'll be surprised how much they can help you because yeah, they actually do, which is rare for me. Because all the academic support I had in all my old schools, they did the bare minimum. So, this is the first school I've been to where they actually do help. So, sign up for it. Expect everything to be natural, because there's not a lot of events in the school where you could build friends. So, just go in with your own type of confidence and approach the people that you think would fit.

Academic Support 10:54

Have you done it though, if that's what you're saying?

Veronique 10:58

Just for some reason, every time I go, I just seem to meet another person from UAL. So, it always ends up quite well for me. And then I just make friends with who they're friends with. And then I've kind of just built it that way. I would not worry about making friends or just feeling comfortable, because everyone seems to be very nice and very social and with ...so

Academic Support 11:20

You've had quite a lot of assessments, obviously, throughout the first and second year. Um...and peer assessments, group critiquing. How do you feel about them? And what's your experience been like?

Veronique 11:31

In my particular course, we actually ...every single project I've done has been with the group project. I personally work better with group projects. So, it really ended up being a great thing for me. I really liked that we work in teams a lot here.

Academic Support 11:45

How has it benefited you as an individual person?

Veronique 11:48

I've just found out what I can and cannot do like ... when we discuss as a group what we can do. And then we start looking at the papers and then we realise there's math in it. I'm like, I can't do math, and someone claims it. And someone says, Oh, I'm good at math, and it just ends up working out perfectly, because maybe not everyone can do everything that's on the paper to do, but we can work out who's better at what. And it just makes it easier because if you're alone and you don't know how to do the math, this ..that is so much gaining up and then you have to learn it. Why spend time on that if you really don't want to, and it's not your craft? So the group projects really work out. And these uni projects as well that we specifically have are way too big to even work alone. So, that they give us group projects, is a really good thing. And you just learn, even within the arts industry, everything will be teamwork-related, in general, within everything, every craft that you would do in the future would have some type of teamwork. So, it's good to just work on that and your communication skills and everything. But working with groups, with people that are not group-friendly is quite hard. But you will have to deal with them your whole life because not everyone's interested.

Academic Support 12:59

From the assessments that you have, what have you learned from them? When they do group peer assessments?

Veronique 13:06

I actually get pretty good reviews on my peer assessments, I always get where its something like one out of four, I always get the four. So that's I'd say that's pretty good. I've always been really good at teamwork, though. Just because I know how to organise people, within the group and not where it's like the person who's like

growling at them and stuff like that, because some people are team leaders in that way, which is not a good thing within the arts and within just like team working. But the peer assessments... I've never actually really had that where you're judged by the other students, or they write it which was really interesting when I first saw that, and when they asked for it, and when they say like, oh, what do you have to do at the end? I didn't expect to actually be grading other people. But I like it because it's just honest. You know.

Academic Support 13:50

What kind of ...what's the strategy, What happens in these sessions? Like what did they ask within the questions? I think they asked like on like, how was the communication between the group, how was their effort and everything? They usually asked like, one out of four, like how did this person do. and you write like one little comment. They asked about how their communication was, how they worked within effort. I usually get pretty good people, I've never had someone who's like too lazy, who hasn't done anything, and if they haven't done anything, they usually do it by the end.

Academic Support 14:18

How important is a reflection because I'm sure you're reflecting after each of these assessments and feedbacks.

Veronique 14:29

Well, most of my actual essays and everything are reflection, like 1000 word essay about reflection, which I find kind of hard because I can write the mistakes I made but it's kind of hard for me to talk about the good things that I did within it. I don't know, it's just probably a confidence thing with myself. But I'm definitely working on it, I never really had reflections essay to do, so this is within the first two years of me doing it. So, hopefully I'll get better with it. But yeah, in terms of just reflecting on my work, I'd say it's an interesting way to write essays, an interesting way to end an assignment because you can just see like, oh, I've done this for the first time... I've.. I've tried this for the first time and it didn't work out for me. And it's good to just try to put that in there, so they understand... like the teachers understand what went wrong and what did go right. So, I guess that's a good way to understand the student.

Veronique 15:21

I mean, it depends what type of person you are like some people can do an assignment, and then they have something similar to it later on and they're just like, 'Oh, I could have done it better, I could have done this'. And some people are just like, 'I did it to turn it in'. So, I guess it just depends what type of attitude you have towards doing the assignment, in general.

Academic Support 15:38

It's a risk taking thing isn't it? I mean, how much of a risk taker are you? I mean, what would your advice be on risk taking?

Veronique 15:45

There's a lot of risk, but nothing is not worth it, at the end, I'd say. Just because you're in uni, this is about experiencing different things that you probably weren't doing before.

Academic Support 15:57

Thank you very much. Very interesting sort feedback on some of the questions I asked you. So, really thank you for your time and your feedback.

Veronique 16:04

Thank you for letting me speak.