

Dear younger me,

I know you are due to go to university soon, and you must be feeling nervous. But don't worry, because once you start your first day and meet some great friends from your course, the year will fly by.

First of all, it's important to turn up to every lecture, take good notes and do independent work in your own time. Trust me, not attending lectures had a negative impact on my learning, as each lecture I missed, I fell behind on work, which then led to twice as much work!

You're here to learn and nobody expects you to be perfect. Don't be afraid to make mistakes – learn from them. You won't enjoy all of the lectures or sessions you have but challenge yourself and go to them anyway. Continue to work hard, because when you see how hard you've worked and what you've achieved, you will feel so proud of how you have grown.

There are a lot of things that you will find strange and scary. One of them is the assignments in each trimester. Do not leave them to the last minute, as they won't be up to a high standard. I would make sure each week I have set days and times to work on uni work.

The fact you commute to Uni will not affect the social side of things. Enjoy this year, make friends, go out, and try new things. Stop worrying about what other people are thinking about you. Make sure you join all societies that interest you, and you'll soon see your friendship group grow.

Don't stress about money. If you're struggling, don't forget there is always someone at Uni to help. You could even sign up to the Employment Bureau, which can help you find work to suit you. Also go home more and enjoy yourself. Home is not that far. Make sure you know the reasons why you came to university in the first place: it's the start of your journey on the career pathway you want to undertake. I'm not going to lie to you, it's going to be stressful. Learning to manage money, balance Uni and work, have a social life in a new place away from home is not easy, but the experience is worth it. Use the university as a support network, DO NOT struggle in silence. It's okay to ask for help and support when you need it.

Thinking of the future, get an idea of what comes after uni. There are so many opportunities to develop inside and outside of Uni. Make sure you grab as many as you can and gain some experience, it will put you in a better position for a job.

Focus on you, and work to become the best version of yourself!

Best of luck!