

March 2011

A Day In The Life of a University Student.....

Morning

My alarm was set for eight o'clock as I had the intention of doing a bit of extra seminar reading before heading in. Alas, my good intentions rarely turn into anything tangible these days and so I stayed in bed for at least another half an hour afterwards. I finally forced my stubborn self out of bed to eat breakfast and shower etc, before making a token effort at some reading at about nine. As it was our last seminar on the topic, we had been told to find "anything of interest or surprise" that you'd found during the module and report back, so basically reiterating the more interesting facets of previous study. I left the house and headed for the bus stop at about 9.40, knowing full well that leaving any later would risk being late, despite my seminar starting at 11.10! This is due to a potent combination of Bristol's traffic congestion and First Bus' erratic interpretation of 'punctuality'.

On the (surprisingly on-time) bus, I attempted a bit more reading, but couldn't really focus. I arrived in the centre at about 10.30, and decided to walk to [UNIVERSITY] (as opposed to catching another bus) as it only takes fifteen to twenty minutes and the weather was glorious. Having arrived at [UNIVERSITY] at about 10.50, I quickly got myself a coffee and proceeded to [ROOM] for my seminar. The first half of the two-hour session consisted of a group presentation and a brief Q&A period. I always try my best to remain attentive during these, as I try to place myself in the presenters' shoes, who have obviously put in a considerable amount of effort into them. Sometimes though, you just can't help but let your mind wander, as evidenced by the people sat either side of me, idly fiddling with their laptops and phones. The second half consisted of our 'findings' and advice/instruction regarding exam revision, and the forthcoming exams themselves, the second of which I found to be very insightful and of genuinely useful.

Lunchtime

Upon the conclusion of the seminar, I headed down to Sainsbury's (Dingles) to buy myself a cheap lunch as I was ravenously hungry. I walked back up to [UNIVERSITY], where I met my friend, and ate said lunch. It was there that he informed me that he would not be able to sign the letting agreement today (which we were scheduled to do at 3.30pm) as he had forgotten about the need to bring a post-dated cheque for the first month's rent. By the time we had eaten lunch and rang both [LETTING AGENT] and my other future flatmate to reschedule for tomorrow, it was rapidly approaching 2pm and so we made our way to the [UNIVERSITY BUILDING] on [ROAD] for our lecture...

Afternoon

...We proceeded to sit at the back and were soon joined by our friend. Recently, these are the two people I have predominantly sat by. It seems to me that as the

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year has progressed, people have become ever-more entrenched, sitting in certain 'groups'. Although this is by no means definitive, and occasionally I'll sit next to other people I have gotten to know. The lecture itself was about the Counter-Reformation and was fairly interesting, although interrupted about halfway through by a technical problem – the speakers began to emit a ridiculously high-pitched screeching sound and it was most unpleasant to listen to!

After the lecture, I spoke briefly with a few people outside before proceeding to the library as I still had a considerable amount of reading to do for tomorrow's seminar. I went up to the private study area on the second floor, as it was the least busy. I often feel that the library is where I do my best work, as I am without the distractions of other people, or modern technology - apart from my phone, but I try and keep texting and idle Facebook browsing to a minimum! Here I remained (aside from the occasional toilet or coffee break) until about 6.30 pm.

Evening

As it was a pleasantly mild evening, I walked back down into the centre to catch the bus. I always enjoy walking down Park Street at this time, the cafes and shops are winding down for the day; the bars/pubs are just starting to come to life, its a fascinating juxtaposition. I arrived back in good ol' [AREA] at about 7.30 and arrived home in just time for my tea being ready. That is certainly one thing *I will* miss after I've moved out!

I was meant to be meeting up with some work friends for bowling at 8.30, but I was simply too tired and was mindful of the need to save what little disposable income I have for the forthcoming move. So I made my excuses and apologised profusely. The rest of my evening consisted of watching a bit of TV and making a start on my Student Finance application for the next academic year, admittedly not tremendously exciting! I went to bed at about midnight.