

The responses to these questions are based on the responses given by our panellists during the careers talk, as well as some additional information from the SHU Transform Team.

What supercurriculars did you put on your personal statement for your course?

What supercurriculars do you recommend for law?

- You can talk about your hobbies, clubs, volunteering and other personal responsibilities on your personal statement, wherever they have helped you to develop your experiences and skills. You can also include any relevant employment and work experience as well.
- In your personal statement you should reflect on what you have learnt from these experiences and how they have helped to prepare you for university studies. Sometimes it might be more challenging to explain how your experiences are directly related to the course or subject area you are interested in, so think carefully about the transferable skills you might have gained from work such as communication and interpersonal skills.

What tips do you have on saving money at uni?

- There are lots of ways to save money at university. Ensuring that you have a student current account can offer ways to make savings or earn rewards. Make sure that you have an interest free overdraft, so you don't pay additional fees if you go overdrawn.
- Student Beans and UniDays have ways to save on purchases you make.
- A top tip for saving money is also to meal plan for the week ahead, whilst also using the idea of batch cooking.
- Most importantly, ensure that you budget effectively and understand how much you have left over to spend each month after you have paid for essentials.

How demanding are societies? Like how often is it? Do you have a lot of actions that you have to do outside of the meetings?

- At Hallam, a society is a group of students that share a similar passion, interest, or hobby. Societies provide a chance to meet other students who are similar to you, and take part in the things you love. Joining a society is also the perfect chance to try something new!
- To join a society, when you get to Hallam you can use the Students' Union to buy a membership for the society you wish to join. Not all societies require a fee to join though. Societies have different approaches to the frequency of meeting and activities, but it is important to realise that it is all voluntary. You don't have to participate more than you are comfortable with.

Favourite part of Sheffield?

- The panel talked about the feel of the city, as somewhere that had enough going on without the busy feel of bigger cities like Manchester, Liverpool or London. They talked about the wide range of green spaces, places to eat and places to socialise.
- Sheffield has great transport links across the city and further afield such as the train station being local to connect you to other major cities. Also the great bus and tram links on the doorstep.

Biggest regret in your career / education so far

- The panel were keen to emphasise that have regrets in career paths and education is completely normal, but they are often still the things that have led you to where you are now.
- Panel members spoke commonly about missed opportunities, identifying things that they would like to have done or have been a part of had they had the capacity or the drive at the time.

Would you recommend going to university if you're not sure on what to do as a career?

- University can be a good option even if you're not 100% about the career you want. It is also very common for students to arrive at university with one thing in mind, and change their career goals on the basis of their experience at university.
- If you are unsure, speak to a careers advisor at your school or college to get support if you need to.

Biggest fear [before or following university]

- A common theme from the panel responding to this was highlighting how it can be scary and challenging thinking about and deciding what to do next.
- University is a big undertaking, and it can feel overwhelming at times. As such, the most important thing is to use all the support and guidance available to you, and to reach out to those sources of support when you need to.

Have you got any plans that your using or used to pay off all student debt?

- It is not necessary to have a plan to pay off student debts before or whilst you are at university.
- Student loans are repaid through an income-dependent system, and this is done automatically, you do not need to worry about it.
- Once you complete your studies, and once you enter work and earn above a certain threshold your employer will automatically deduct a percentage from your payslip. If at any point you stop working or go below the threshold your repayments will stop. You only pay the percentage on the money earned over the threshold.

Are other unis just as practical as Hallam?

- There are lots of other universities like Sheffield Hallam that have an increased focus on vocational courses. Some examples include Manchester Metropolitan, Leeds Beckett, Nottingham Trent, Hull and Derby.

When sharing accommodations can you choose who you're with.

- Where possible, we always try to honour friendship requests but cannot guarantee this. Each member of the friendship group should apply for accommodation individually and provide details (full name and Sheffield Hallam student ID number) of all members of the group within the notes section of the application. Ensure your preferences of accommodation are the same (this means the preference for the type of student accommodation you would like to live in).
- After your first year, you may choose to live out of student halls and live in a private let house with friends.

Can you join multiple societies

- Yes, you can join multiple societies it's up to you as an individual how many societies you join. It's about managing your time efficiently.

When you graduate do you get grades, such as A-F or does the certificate say you've completed University

- University is graded differently to school and college. Throughout your course you will be assessed on work you complete through different methods. These will depend on the course you have chosen.
- At the end of your degree, your overall grade will be in line with weighted averages across your assessments and generally align as follows:
 - o 1st Class – 70% or higher
 - o 2:1 (2nd Class) – 60-69%
 - o 2:2 (2nd Class) – 50-59%
 - o 3rd Class – 40-49%
- Other classifications below a 3rd do exist, but vary by institution and country.

Did any of you have part-time jobs while you're at uni. Any finance advice for uni?

- You are able to undertake part-time work whilst studying at university. It is important to bear in mind that this work will be alongside your studies and social activities, so it is your responsibility to stay on top of your university work. Part-time work is an excellent opportunity to earn some extra money and gain extra experience during your studies. It is not recommended to work more than 15 hours per week during term time.
- Some general finance tips for university:

- Make sure you stay on top of your budgeting. It can be useful to use an app such as 'Blackbullion' to keep track of your finances.
- Make sure you are receiving all the funding you are entitled to, such as any grants or bursaries you might be entitled to.
- Take advantage of student discounts where you can.
- Talk to your bank about setting up a student bank account, as these can have useful offers attached to them, and ensure you get one with a 0% interest overdraft.

Looking back now would you rather have done a degree apprenticeship. And why?

- Degree Apprenticeships are an excellent option for students who are keen to learn in a different way to the typical university path, but would still like to achieve an undergraduate degree. You can earn a wage whilst you learn, who won't need to get a student loan, and your learning will be more practical and hands-on than other courses.
- There are lots of advantages to DAs as you will be able to upskill and qualify without additional costs. It will give you the opportunity to kickstart your career as your employer may likely retain you after you have completed your course. It also offers a flexible way to learn with a blend of theory and practice.
- However, there are some considerations you should make when considering applying for DAs. Vacancies are competitive, as they are limited and open to anyone over 18 who meets the entry requirements. There is often only one opening for each post advertised, but potentially hundreds of applicants. They are demanding, requiring you to complete your university work alongside a full-time or near full-time role. You are also unlikely to have the typical university experience, as you will not live in student halls and will spend most (80%) of your working time with your employer. As there is no student loan, you must cover all of your outgoing costs (housing, food, commuting, etc.,) with the salary you receive from the employer.
- Due to the competitive nature of degree apprenticeships, employers are looking to take on high performing candidates, who perform excellently during their Further Education studies. They are looking for candidates who are resilient and who have the perseverance and commitment to complete the apprenticeship. They are also looking for an individual that they can invest in for the future.

What degree apprenticeships for law would you recommend? What resources is there to look for them?

- You can use the GOV.UK apprenticeship finder to search for opportunities for degree apprenticeships.

- For law, you can search by subject area to see what DAs might be available in this field. Make sure that you filter opportunities by apprenticeship level 6 to ensure that you are looking for the correct qualification level.