

# A typical week at university

The following first year university timetable and accompanying notes were written by a current student studying **Public Sociology at Queen Margaret University** in Edinburgh. They are intended to provide school pupils with a realistic picture of what a typical week at university is like for a first year student studying this subject at this particular university. It's worth remembering that every university student will have a different first year timetable depending on their degree subject, university and student lifestyle.

- I aim to study every day for a minimum of an hour outside of university hours. This changes come exam season, where I aim to do at least 2-3 hours a day minimum – this is because Sociology is a degree that requires students to do a lot of independent reading, and the more time you dedicate to reading the extra material, the better you become at illustrating your thoughts in essays and exams!
- It is unlikely that – in first year anyway – you will be scheduled to be in university 5 days a week. In my first year, I went in 3 times a week and would often have 2 lectures on 2 of the days, then one day I would have a lecture and a seminar.
- When in university, for lunch I would often stay on campus and go with friends to Maggie's (the café/bar on campus) – this was a great way to spend my breaks as it let me meet people and enjoy lunch but also meant I was close to my classes so didn't have to rush around amidst trying to enjoy a nice meal!
- Although the weekends are stereotypically when most students maximise on social time, I worked a part-time job through first year that required me to work every weekend. This meant I didn't have as much time to read at the weekends as I would've wanted to.
- It is really important to have free time!! Although the social sciences require independent reading, and you will likely have to learn a lot of theories and ideas in a short space of time, it is still very important that you take time to enjoy the things you like and rejuvenate yourself! I would often play some music, or hang out with friends, or maybe even get an extra rest!

