

## **To what extent can your degree prepare you for life beyond university?**

The experience of being a student, developing the ability to think extensively and solve problems, meeting lots of different people and challenging yourself, that can really help prepare you for the next stage – whatever you want that to be.

Striking a balance between your course and the many other things on offer is the key to success. You must focus on grades but also on all the opportunities offered to you at university. Those opportunities come in a range of forms and can give you experiences that will help you develop as an individual as well as enter the job market. It's important to recognise the weight that employers place on having particular skills such as resilience, problem solving, initiative and team working. The good news is that many of the activities on offer at university – sports, clubs and societies, work experience, meeting new people – can and do develop your skills, often in the background, while forming a vital part of your general student life.

Tom Parratt has just graduated from a television production degree and now works for a local media company. He says. “I learnt how to work well with others, make friendships and network well with professionals.”

Parratt is sure that being more confident and comfortable with himself as a result of his student experiences helped him land his graduate job. What's his advice to current students? “Find a balance between your studies and things you need to do away from that,” he says. “Give yourself time for meals, and make time in the week to do what you want to do.”