

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO UNI

TIPS TO MASTER THE TRANSITION



written by **SINEAD LEE**

MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY IS OFTEN SOMETHING THAT MAKES STUDENTS FEEL NERVOUS. FOR ME, I WONDERED WHETHER I WOULD MAKE FRIENDS, WHETHER I WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE WORKLOAD AND WHETHER I WOULD SURVIVE MOVING AWAY FROM HOME.

40

Looking back on it now, my first few weeks at university were heaps of fun. I moved from Carmel College on the North Shore of Auckland into Arana College at the University of Otago.

At high school I took English, drama, history, chemistry and statistics in Year 13. I had a fair idea at the start of my final year at school that I wanted to study law, however I kept up one science subject just in case I changed my mind.

I attended the University of Otago's open day and had a good look round some of the halls – Arana was my favourite so I put that down as my first-choice hall with hopes that I would get in. Luckily enough I did.

I knew a few people going into the hall but I instantly made new friends. The great thing was that we were all in the same boat, living away from our parents for the first time and fresh out of high school. Everyone had so much in common!

The team at Arana made sure that everyone got to know each other through floor activities every week.

A few friends and I even got involved in the Arana women's rugby team.

Living in a hall had some major advantages: we attended lectures together, studied together and formed study groups that two years down the track still exist.

If ever you weren't sure about something, it was so convenient to be able to pop next door to one of your knowledgeable neighbours and ask.



THE TEAM AT ARANA COLLEGE MADE SURE WE ALL GOT TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BY ORGANISING EVENTS DURING ORIENTATION WEEK SUCH AS THE TOGA PARTY. FROM LEFT: YASMIN TAWNGDEE (WELLINGTON GIRLS COLLEGE), SINEAD LEE (CARMEL COLLEGE, MILFORD) AND LYDIA FOLEY (ST MARY'S COLLEGE, PONSONBY).

In my second year I moved from Arana College to a flat on Castle Street. This was another big change as we learnt how to cook, clean and manage our money effectively. For me this change was greater than that in first year.

Moving out of the halls was heaps of fun. I flatbed with five other girls, some from my high school and others I had met in Arana from St Margaret's College and Rangitikei Girls' School in Christchurch and St Hilda's Collegiate in Dunedin.

We all matured a lot in our first year of flatting. With constant assignments and full year exams it was so important to have patience with your flatmates.

If I could give any advice, it would be to try your best to maintain a good relationship with your flatmates while you live together. It makes the environment much more enjoyable! Take time to do activities together, like the occasional movie or beach visit. We also found taking the time to eat together at the dinner table every night boosted morale during the cold winter months.

One of the things that I loved about coming to university was the freedom to manage your own time. There were no roll calls in lectures, no one checks if you have handed in your assignment and it is your responsibility to get your work done.

Also everyone is much more passionate and motivated about what they are studying because they are paying (or borrowing) money to be there.

They really are some of the most enjoyable years of your life, so don't be too nervous about leaving school!

KEY FACTS



- LIVING IN HALLS OF RESIDENCE HAS SOME MAJOR ADVANTAGES. YOU QUICKLY MAKE FRIENDS, AND TOGETHER YOU CAN ATTEND LECTURES AND FORM STUDY GROUPS.
- WHEN FLATTING, TRY YOUR BEST TO MAINTAIN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FLATMATES WHILE YOU LIVE TOGETHER.
- UNIVERSITY YEARS ARE SOME OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, SO DON'T BE TOO NERVOUS ABOUT LEAVING SCHOOL.



For more information on accommodation options and studying through the University of Otago, visit www.otago.ac.nz