

## Three Things every UWE Creative and Professional Writing student should know

There's a lot of things that you'll learn on your own as you live your uni experience, but here's three things that you should know before coming to UWE.

### 1. You should probably learn to cook

I learned one thing about Uber Eats pretty quickly. It gets expensive. Fast.

For most students, cooking ability extends as far as spag bol at first. It's cheap and easy, so it's a great option when you've had enough of fast food eating away at your budget.

Problem is, spag bol gets boring as quickly as Uber Eats gets expensive (or maybe even a little bit faster). This is why teaching yourself to cook is a good idea.

Start off with some simple recipes to learn the basics. Good beginner dishes are curry, stir fry, and chilli, but the possibilities are really endless. As you get more confident, experiment by putting whatever you can think of in the dish. A tip I'll give for free – rum and coke isn't a great addition to chicken katsu, but isn't horrible either.

For some great recipes for all skillsets, try BBC GoodFood: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>

### 2. You should probably get a job

By the end of first year, you'll have discovered that life away from home is way more expensive than you thought it was.

Finding employment is a good idea for more than just the money, though. For a start, it's a nice way of finding a social circle outside of your house. Finding friends that you don't have to sleep near is invaluable – especially during deadline season.

Something that surprised me when I got a job in third year was how good it felt to do something constructive that wasn't my coursework. If you work towards the same goal all day, every day, it gets easy to forget that there's a wider world out there. My minimum wage kitchen job was weirdly good at helping me see that.

If you find yourself on a job hunt, try the Student's Union as a starting place. They help you fit your working hours around your studying and will treat you well.

UWE JobShop is a great resource for finding student-friendly work:

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/opportunities/jobs/>

### 3. You should definitely have fun

You'll hear a lot of people talking about keeping a healthy work/life balance, and they're right. It's important to keep enough time aside to get everything done. That's partly why you're coming to uni.

That doesn't mean you should ignore the life part of that balance, though.

These will be the first years that you spend away from the comfort of your home, and that's a fantastic thing. You'll learn to be independent. How to be an adult. It's a bit of a daunting thing at first, but the fun starts when you realise that nobody else knows what they're doing either.

So enjoy yourself. Make mistakes. Buy too many takeaways. Drink too much (but not enough to get me in trouble for writing that).

Above all, these are your glory years, so treat them as such.