

Listening to advice from other students

Student 1: *Even if you're really shy just make the effort to go and talk to people and to get involved and be, you know, pick what you want to be involved in and what you don't want to be involved in but just get involved I think.*

Student 2: *But the more I've been here, the more I've learned that it's not necessarily about where you go, it's more about finding out who you are because this is the one time when you're all alone, and your family's not with you, your friends aren't with you, the people of your same culture, kind of aren't with you, you know? And so, I don't know, I guess it's time for you to figure out, I don't know, like, it's more of figuring out about yourself more than the culture. And just, kind of, having an amazing life experience.*

Student 3: *I think accept...accept the fact that you will have a tough time when you come here, because a lot of people have these high expectations and see all the pretty brochures and think look I'm going to be in London or I'm gonna be in the UK. But accept that it will be hard, and that you have to make...it's a kind of a growing process and you have to, you have to get over it because that's part of whatever, adjusting to a new culture, growing up etc etc. So, make sure that you are able to kind of handle that.*

Student 4: *I think first of all you have to be, er, mentally and physically prepared, because of, studying in (the) UK, er, will have big challenges. For example, first is the language. Although you might think you have passed some, er, exams, you have done well in your IELTS or other exams, but you will still meet difficulties, er, particularly in writing, so try to practise more writing before you come, er, and also try to, er, be more open to...to the other people, because people...usually the Chinese students are a little bit shy and they're afraid of, er, talking to foreigners, so when they arrive, the first few weeks will be quite difficult for them. But I think it is very important that they do go to other people and try to make friends during the first few weeks because that's when people start to meet with each other and start to build up relationships. And also I think try to read a little bit more in the subject you are going to study. This background reading, maybe not really in English, you can do it in Chinese as well, will help you to...to study better in (the) UK and release some of the pressure that you will face...you will...you will face in the future.*