Mikhail Petrov (the international student)

Nineteen-year-old Mikhail is an international student in his first term of Computer Science at York University. He lives in a small apartment near Keele campus with two roommates, rides the TTC to class, and splits his time between Scott Library and the Second Student Centre. English is his second language; he's fluent but sometimes worries about sounding awkward when he introduces himself. To unwind, he plays basketball at Tait McKenzie or watches YouTube videos about PC building and AI tools.

Mikhail uses technology for nearly everything; class notes on Notion, reminders in Google Calendar, and Discord for his gaming circles. However, he hasn't found a reliable way to meet classmates offline. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he has a three-hour gap between lectures, which he spends eating shawarma alone in the Second Student Centre. He has joined a few York-related Discord servers but finds them noisy and unorganized, full of random chatter rather than meaningful, real connections.

What he wants most is a simple way to match with classmates who share both his courses and his free blocks between classes, so he can build a small circle that makes campus feel like home. YUCircle would give him that exact opportunity: an easy, low-pressure way to meet students who share both his courses and free time. For Mikhail, the app isn't just a social network; it's a bridge to feeling at home in a new country.

Stacey Nguyen (the student president)

Twenty-two-year-old Stacey Lee is a fourth year Music Production student and serves as president of the York Audiophile Club, a niche group devoted to sound engineering and vinyl listening. She lives in a townhouse near Finch station and divides her time between campus, her part-time job at a café, and the small sound studio she books through the university. Her busy schedule involves lectures, rehearsals, club meetings, along with an internship application due next month. She's moderately tech-savvy and prefers a laptop dashboard in the evenings when she plans events, with quick mobile checks during the day.

Running the club is challenging, as Stacey never knows when students are free. She tracks orientation dates, past events, and attendance in spreadsheets, yet scheduling still feels like guesswork. Many first-year STEM students show interest in audio, but it seems as if their class times rarely align with her plans. Some days she sets up in Central Square to an empty crowd; other times, she's swamped with unexpected traffic.

YUCircle's analytics tools could transform how Stacey plans events by showing patterns in class schedules and revealing when most first-year students are available. With this insight, she could schedule activities for maximum turnout and post targeted invitations to the right audience without extra effort. For Stacey, YUCircle represents more than convenience; it's a smarter, data-driven way for student leaders to organize events and make the most of their limited time.

Alex Rivera (the nursing student)

Twenty-one-year-old Alex Rivera is a third-year Nursing student at York University. She lives near campus with her friend Adam, who is also in the program. Most of her week is packed with labs, clinical rotations, and study sessions at the First Student Centre. She's organized but often feels burnt out by the intensity of her coursework. When she's not studying, she enjoys quick coffee runs and morning jogs to clear her mind before long shifts at the hospital.

Alex and Adam prefer studying with peers but rarely have time to search for classmates with similar schedules. Group chats are cluttered, and messages about study sessions get lost among announcements and casual talk. They've tried reaching out after lectures, but coordinating through texts quickly becomes tedious. Between exams and rotations, Alex needs a faster, more efficient way to connect with other nursing students who share her availability.

For Alex, YUCircle would make that simple. She imagines posting a "Nursing Study Group" ad that automatically matches her and Adam with others in the same program and overlapping free times. Interested students could join immediately, eliminating the hassle of planning. The app would let her focus on studying rather than coordination. To Alex, YUCircle is a smarter way to build academic connections while managing a demanding schedule.