

Hi there!

Welcome to UVA!! I am so excited that you have joined our community of Wahoos. I know that this is not how you imagined your first semester of college to be, trust me I did not expect my fourth year to be like this either. I am sure that this is a difficult time to enter college, but I am very optimistic that you will find many chances to make your mark on this community, both virtually and in person. You belong here at UVA, and I know that you are in for a great four years!

My time here has really flown by. The two things that have really made this happen were outside of the classroom and study spaces. The first thing is the people. The people that you find at UVA are one of a kind. They are driven, caring, and passionate. It may take some time to find those that you connect with on a deep level, but have faith that it will happen. Make the effort to talk to people in classes, form study groups, join clubs – even if everything is virtual right now! The second thing is an organization that has really impacted me - Housing and Residence Life (HRL). When I was a first year I was close to my Senior Resident (SR) and would ask her for guidance on things going on in my life at UVA. Resident Staff is a great resource to talk to about anything from classes, clubs to join, and things that you just have going on in your life. They are the most caring people there for you if you want to talk to them! My appreciation for my Resident Advisor (RA) and SR led me to apply to be an RA myself. I have been in this program for 3 years now and I absolutely love it! I have met some of my best friends by being an RA and I cherish those bonds I have made with my fellow staffers and residents. HRL is not the only organization that forms bonds and is an avenue for socialization. All of the clubs at UVA have missions but also social aspects. I recommend looking at <https://www.virginia.edu/life/activities> to see the different clubs UVA has and reach out to organizations that you find interesting. You never know what may be your passion!

When I entered the University I was nervous about choosing a major, making friends, and finding interesting clubs. I hope that you will reach out to peers, look into joining some clubs, and take everything that is being thrown your way one day at a time. It is easy to get overwhelmed, but just take a step back and a deep breath and you will be okay! I am confident you will find a home at UVA, just like I did! I wish you the best of luck with the rest of this semester and the next 3.5 years! Welcome home, I'm excited that you're here!

Sincerely,
Anna
Class of 2021