



The Extended Self in Transition

An exploration into the effects transitional life stages have on how an individual's identity is portrayed, with focus on how material possessions and the extended self are used to define, maintain and stabilise identity.

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Submitted: 2012 – 2013

Word Count: 8,000

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I declare that this dissertation is all my own work and the sources of information and the material I have used (including the internet) have been fully identified and properly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the effects transition can have on how individuals portray their identity, with focus on how material possessions and the extended self are used to define and stabilise self-concept. Previous consumer research has focused solely on material possessions but here it is argued that there is a broader understanding of the extended self and how individuals use it during the liminal stage of transition. From phenomenological interviews with Bournemouth University students, the researcher identified four main themes: social relations; stuff; impression management; and the changing self. Drawing from the phenomenological data it was discovered that the findings support the notion that the extended self is used to represent and stabilise self. Material possessions are not as significant as first thought, however social relations could be considered as essential, and are especially imperative to stabilise self-concept in a time of transition.

KEYWORDS: Identity, Extended self, Material possession, Transition, University, Liminality

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INTRODUCTION

In 2010 there were 1.3 million undergraduates at UK Universities, (Mintel, 2011) and despite the rise in tuition fees to up to £9,000 in 2012 over 450,000 teenagers were accepted and made a significant life transition; to become a University student (UCAS, 2012). This is the first life change where many desire self-direction and independence away from their parents (Harley et al., 2007; Mintel, 2011). The move to University puts these individuals in a situation where they must start again, usually in a new location, surrounded by strangers in a similar situation, where they need to discover their identity. To some this is the time where they are able to define themselves, how they want to be perceived or who they desire to become. It is also a time to redefine existing social relationships and establish new friendships for a successful transition to University (Harley et al., 2007). The Student Lifestyle Mintel Report (2011) states that 'almost half of first-year students (47%) went to meet new people'. The transition to become a student is not only about the change in academic and social environments, but the start of the construction of a new identity and a sense of belonging again (Beder, 1997).

Previous consumer research suggests that an individual's identity evolves throughout their life, especially in times of transition (Schultz et al., 1989; Mehta and Belk, 1991; Noble and Walker, 1997). Transition refers to the process of changing from one identity state to another and consists of three stages; separation, in which the individual removes themselves from their previous role, liminality, in which one self is separated from previous roles however has not yet

reached desired state, and aggregation, where the desired self is reached and stability in identity returned (Noble and Walker, 1997; Schouten, 1991; Turner, 1969; Van Gennep, 1960). Research suggests that the evolving self-concept is often mediated by the use of material possessions to aid the process to maintain and communicate one's identity to the audience (Shankar et al., 2009; Hogg et al., 2000; Schouten, 1991). This demonstration of self through goods, may be referred to as the notion of 'extended self' (Belk, 1988), in which possessions that are not only a part of self-concept could also be regarded as an element of self-development (Belk, 1988), like the transition to University. It has been suggested that such transitions may require more reliance on material goods and can often affect consumption patterns due to the need to stabilise identity. Therefore understanding these stages is important for marketers when attempting to understand consumer behaviour (Wallendorf and Arnould, 1988; Noble and Walker, 1997). From an industry perspective it may be interpreted that individuals in the liminal stage of transition will be more dependent on material possessions or the extended self than those who are in a stable identity. It is accepted that advertising sells ideas of a new or desired self and an improved life through the purchase of goods (Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981; Sirgy, 1982). Therefore 'catching' people in transitional states could mean such techniques are even more influential and thus, understanding transitional experiences and the role of material goods within them, should be valuable for the marketing communications profession.

This paper will explore the effects transition can have on how individuals portray their identity, focusing on how material possessions and the extended self are used to define and stabilise identity.

Objectives of this study are:

- To identify how the extended self is used to define and maintain self-concept;
- To explore the three roles of material possessions in extending self: maintenance of extended self, preservation of past-self, construction of new self;
- To explore the uses of the extended self and material possession in the liminal stage of transition.

The paper is divided into five sections: the literature review critically analyses relevant literature used to explore the topic area and gaps in research that still need exploring. The methodology section sets out the methods of research used. The findings are analysed and interpreted in the final three sections of the paper.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This Literature Review will initially consider the overall perception of identity in consumer research and focus on the notion of 'extended self' as introduced by Belk (1987). It will then examine the conflicting argument that there is an overemphasis of the importance of consumption in the development of identity. Finally there is a consideration of transitional life stages and the effect transition has on the extended self. This leads to the reflection that transitional

changes in an individual are defined and stabilised through both material possessions and extended self.

Identity

How identity is displayed has been discussed within consumer research for years; from the effects of culture or gender on identity portrayal to how relationships, brands and reputation can alter an individual's self-concept (McCracken, 1986; Schouten, 1991; Hogg and Terry, 2001). Self-concept is the 'cognitive and affective understanding of who and what we are' (Schouten, 1991, p.413) and can encompass things such as personal attributes, relationships, and body image (Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981; Belk, 1988; Schouten, 1991). Self-concept allows individuals to analyse themselves endlessly as they attempt 'self-betterment' (Schouten, 1991, p.412). One way this is achieved is through social relations that support the individual's sense of identity (Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981; Belk, 1988; Ball and Tasaki, 1992).

Historically 'identity' had been observed as a fixed concept (Kellner, 1992). However, recently literature has argued that our 'identity' is a dynamic tool that can be 'assembled and reassembled' throughout stages in our lives (Shankar et al., 2009, p.76). Whilst evolving an individual's identity becomes interchangeable, it has been suggested that we can have many possible 'selves' representing who we can be (Sirgy, 1982; Shankar et al., 2009). Academics have established how this change in self-presentation can be seen as having multidimensional perspectives or even multiple selves (Sirgy, 1982; Goffman, 1959). Through Goffman's (1959) portrayal of identity as a 'performance', he discusses how one's actions are presented differently to different audiences through separate identities. Hogg et al.

(2000) also discusses the idea of multiple selves. They see the self as a dynamic structure where 'individuals are guided by their...possible selves' (p.643). Identity is no longer a stable concept, but a project, 'which has to be worked on' (Shankar et al., 2009, p.77). Shankar et al.'s (2009) study also acknowledges that identity develops over time and consumption is an element of how individuals construct their desired identity. This idea is more apparent when considering life changes as these transitions emphasise the evolving self, for example moving to University in which the individual must adapt.

Further research has demonstrated that one way individuals evolve their identity is through the use of possessions aiding the process to self-create; to construct, maintain and communicate their identity (Schouten, 1991; Hogg et al., 2000; Shankar et al., 2009). Goffman (1959), used the term 'self-presentation' to portray the way individuals attempt to influence how they are perceived, both intentionally and unintentionally: an idea often used in literature in parallel with impression management. Goffman's work attempts to analyse our everyday lives and discusses the presentation of self as being a constant 'play' or theatrical performance. The individual is the actor and the people around them are their audience. The self constantly tries to guide a positive impression to the audience through changing the setting, appearance and manner of themselves, 'offer[ing] a performance and put[ting] on a show for the benefit of others' (p.28). Goffman's (1959) elaborates that individuals use their setting or 'props' to tell the audience about their desired self-concept.

The Extended Self

Support for Goffman's (1959) notion of the use of possessions to define identity came when Russell Belk (1987) coined the notion of the 'extended self', focusing on the significance of possessions to an individual's identity. He stated that this was no new idea as he mentions William James quote from 1890; 'a man's self is the sum total of all that he can call his' (p.139). Belk (1988) defined the term of 'extended self' as not limited to material possessions but also included places and social relations. Numerous studies since have stated how individuals use possessions to learn, remind and define who they are (James, 1890; Belk, 1988; Sirgy, 1982; Dittmar, 1992; Noble and Walker, 1997; Shankar et al., 2009). It has been observed that the elements of valued possessions are associated with two self-development tasks: differentiation of self and integration of self (Schultz et al., 1989). Integration or the public self seeks social recognition, status, and self-worth (Greenwald, 1988). Whereas the private self seeks achievement, self-control, and desires to be unique (Kegan, 1982; Greenwald, 1988; Schultz et al., 1989). As Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) state 'to understand what people are...one must understand what goes on between people and things' (p.1). Possessions are important due to their ability to provide tangible signs that can communicate continuity of one's experiences and relationships (Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981). Support for such an idea comes from Hogg et al. (2000) whose research demonstrates how possessions are used to communicate symbolic meaning to oneself and the audience for the pursuit and maintenance of self-esteem and self-identity. These possessions are not just consumed for functional benefits, but also for their symbolic meaning to lifestyle and choice, becoming part of our extended self (Schultz et al., 1989; Dittmar et al., 1995). Noble

and Walker's (1997) study explores the transition from high school to college in the US, it researches the extended self and how possessions are used to maintain the past self and construct desired self during transition. They suggest there is greater need for possessions in times of change to stabilise the individual's self-concept.

Another element of the extended self is social groups (Belk, 1988; Wallendorf and Arnould, 1988; Thomson et al., 2005; Shankar et al., 2009), seen by Thomson et al. (2005, p.78) as a 'basic human need'. It is believed that an element of self-concept is how one makes connections with others (Wallendorf and Arnould, 1988). Shankar et al. (2009), discusses this idea and suggests that consumer culture nowadays is the arena to communicate and compete our identity positions. Goffman (1974) developed this through his study called 'Frame Analysis'. This focused on the need for an agreed definition of a situation, usually developed from previous experiences. He stated that individuals needed to have a mutual understanding of how a 'frame' works to allow social situations to understand the overall situation to communicate themselves correctly to 'fit-in' (Goffman, 1974). This analysis has continued to be used by researchers to assess how people comprehend situations (Illouz, 1997; Miller, 2010). It assumes that both 'actor and audience' understand these experiences and can identify the importance of possessions in portraying identity to help represent who we are to others.

Conflicting with this is the argument, that there is an overemphasis on the importance of consumption in the development of self-concept (Warde 2005, Shankar et al., 2009) and it should be seen as a part of identity, not identity itself.

Overall, this suggests identity is no longer seen as a fixed 'thing' rather a project or a process that is continually worked on so that the individual can achieve the ideal self.

Stuff

Goffman (1959) and Miller (2010), alongside other academics, believe that material possessions are not the focal point of an individual's identity and are instead more a part of the 'frame' of our identity (Goffman, 1959; Illouz, 1997; Miller, 2005; Warde, 2005; Miller, 2010; Jenkins et al., 2011). For example Miller (2010) sees the extended self as just 'stuff' that we surround ourselves with, but he does believe this 'stuff' can actually 'create us in the first place' (p.10), just not in isolation. These possessions are the 'setting' and work best when we accept them and even take them for granted. As mentioned previously Goffman (1959) suggests a similar idea and states that our possessions are 'props' used for our daily performance, the 'backdrop to the action' (Miller, 2010, p.50). This suggests that we cannot depend on our 'stuff' specifically; instead it is built into the whole context of a situation, both the individual and their audience understand this concept. Miller (2005) believes that the less we are aware of our possessions the more powerful they become in determining our self-concept. Even Csikszentimihayli and Rochberg-Halton (1981), who believe strongly about the importance of material possessions throughout their consumer research work, state that it is not what the objects are; it is more how they have been selected and combined. Jenkins et al. (2011) developed these ideas in a study of consumer culture in everyday imaging to understand how consumerism is part of an individual's imagination. They found instead that 'individuals readily envisioned

common cultural desire for successful relationships' whereas the goods were 'assumed as part of the background' (p.261). Jenkins et al. (2011) also uncovered the overwhelming importance of social relations in imaging future, which were seen as a central focus, whereas consumer goods 'were "there" but not as a focal point' (p.269). Miller (2010) discovered, when the participants talked about their experiences their material possessions simply 'disappeared' into the setting. These academics are not stating that the extended self is not an important issue within consumer research, however sometimes there is too much focus on the consumerism element. Miller (2010) still believes that our possessions can be seen as symbols that represent us, but, as individuals, we give these objects the meaning that represents us to the every changing world around us (Illouz, 1997; Miller, 2010; Jenkins et al., 2011).

The Role of Transition

Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) state how material possessions can identify us and help shape identity in the development of self. Transitional life stages happen all through life; moving to University, one's first house, a new job or getting married. In the context of this study, transition refers to the process of changing from one identity state to another. Researchers discuss the stages of transition or 'rites of passage' in their studies and key stages have been defined (Van Gennep, 1960; Turner, 1969; Schultz et al., 1989; Schouten, 1991; Noble and Walker, 1997). The initial stage is known as 'separation' where oneself detaches from their previous role. This is achieved through the extended self by separation from possessions; the function or symbolic meaning of the possession can adapt or disappear completely (Belk, 1988). Secondly, the middle phase is

'liminality', a stage in which one self is separated from previous roles but has not yet reached future or desired state. In relation to the extended self these stages can often affect consumer patterns in order to stabilise identity, or help facilitate the development in their new role. The final stage is 'aggregation', where oneself has reached their finally defined role. It is believed that in this stage individuals are no longer as dependent on the extended self, therefore possessions are no longer the necessity they once were (Van Gennep, 1960; Noble and Walker, 1997).

Understanding these three stages is important for marketers (Andreasen, 1984; Belk, 1988; Noble and Walker, 1997). It is important to state that the duration of transition can fluctuate in length widely as it depends heavily on both the individual and the situation, and can affect the dependence of the role of possessions for different individuals (Noble and Walker, 1997). In the case of the transition to University, the liminal stage will commence on arrival at University, however the total duration depends on the individual. Shankar et al.'s (2009) study picks up on how an individual's transition to University was the 'turning point in her life' (p.87) embracing the freedom and opportunity to write her own story and own identity, which had previously been influenced by her parents.

Noble and Walker's (1997) study is also an exploration into the transition from high school to college in the US, it researches the extended self and how possessions are used to both maintain the past self and construct desired self during a 'major life transition' (p.29). The findings suggest that consumers in liminal transition rely on possessions that 'symbolize the past, as well as those that represent the new role' and the extended self can help to both symbolize relationships and be an element of emotional support (Noble and Walker 1997:

p.29). Their study identified that further research is needed on both conceptual levels, by developing the theory to explain specific behaviours or, empirical levels to test the predictions of conceptual research by focusing on real people and real situations in the stage of transition. Whilst their work has addressed key findings in the topic area of the extended self in transition, there remains space for further research. Their quantitative methodology is not seen as enough to fully understand the individual's thoughts and experiences in relation to this topic. Therefore, this research paper seeks to further the understanding of such issues through qualitative methods to allow the researcher to discover a deeper understanding of the need for an individual's extended self, by exploring the actual experience of transition rather than just an investigation into the reason why people consume products.

METHODOLOY

In order to explore the expression of self-identity through material goods, qualitative methods were employed. Research has found that qualitative methods can provide a deeper understanding of social phenomena which quantitative data cannot achieve (Silverman, 2005). This qualitative approach develops Noble and Walker's (1997) study, which used a quantitative approach only, through the use of a survey instrument. This quantitative method lacked detailed understanding of self-concept and other elements of the extended self such as social relations, which appear significant in recent research (Illouz, 1997; Jenkins et al., 2011). Whilst qualitative methods can be limiting in terms of representativeness, it can provide detailed understanding required for complex issues such as identity (White 2000).

A phenomenological approach was used in order to understand the lived experience of transition to University and the communication of identity through the extended self and is an established method in consumer research (Belk et al., 1996; Thompson, 1997; Jenkins et al., 2011). As Jenkins et al. (2011) state, phenomenological interviewing allows the interviewer to gather detailed stories about the interviewee's experiences together with 'broader stories about their lifeworlds' (p.268). This meant there was less focus on consumption, but instead drew on the individual's experiences to expose the extended self (Jenkins et al., 2011).

The population of interest was first year University students aged 18-20. Based on ease of accessibility, Bournemouth University was used as the location from which to recruit participants. A convenience sample of eleven participants, both male and female students, from a variety of degree faculties, was approached to participate in this research project. This target sample was chosen due to their ability to provide information for the study and to try to offer a varied sample from the student population. A drawback of the use of a convenience sample is that it may be biased as it cannot be representative of the entire population (Jankowicz, 2005) However, the interviewer sought to discover first-hand experience of each individual not the population as a whole (Thompson et al., 1989). See Table One below for details of the full sample.

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Phenomenological interviewing

A hermeneutic phenomenological approach was taken for the interviews to help capture the meaning behind experiences. Van Manen (1997) states that this method helps to question the way we experience the world and aims to gain a deeper understanding of our everyday lives. In the case of this study the transition of moving to University is one of these 'everyday lived experiences' which first year students experience first-hand. This approach attempts to explicate the meaning as one lives it, whilst retaining social context (Van Manen, 1997). It usually employ only a few preplanned questions so that 'the interview dialogue emerges in relation to the characteristics of the consumption experience and meaning' (Thompson, 1997, p.442). The interview design was largely unstructured and took an interpretative approach, however the study's objectives were used to determine an interview guide (see Appendix C). The same guide was used to direct each interview to enhance validity (Bell, 1999). The process allows for flexibility depending on how the interview progressed and for new aspects to be offered by the participants for the interviewer to interpret (Jankowicz, 2005). Van Manen (1997) mentions that the logical starting point is using personal experiences, as they are immediately accessible to the individual. Each interview began with a request to describe themselves and how they came to choose Bournemouth University.

A pilot interview (Appendix D) was conducted to test; the intended interview technique and content, to assess whether the objectives were addressed and to anticipate any issues early on (Wallinman, 2005). The interviewee detected no problems, and core issues of the research and objectives were sufficiently

addressed (Jankowicz, 2005). Nevertheless, an individual's identity is not always easily discussed or necessarily acknowledged in everyday life. Therefore for the final interviews aspects of the Zaltman Metaphor Elicitation Technique (ZMET) (Zaltman, 1996) were incorporated to encourage the participants to express key aspects of their own identity. The ZMET technique uses metaphors to tap into the unconscious thoughts and perceptions of the participants using images rather than words, allowing the researcher to learn more about how the participants think (Van Dessel, 2005). In this study the participants were asked to collect photographs or pictures to describe 'what makes you, you'.

In-depth interviews are regarded as the most powerful means of obtaining an understanding of a person's experiences, if carried out correctly (Kvale, 1983; Darlington and Scott, 2002; McCracken, 1988). In-depth interviews have value in assessing the role of one's possessions in the definition and evaluation of self (Ball and Tasaki, 1992). This took the form of face-to-face interviews in each participant's home to keep the interview environment as consistent as possible. This approach was taken to reduce bias (Jankowicz, 2005). However, it could be argued that the participants could feel pressure to answer the questions 'correctly' to please the interviewer resulting in dishonesty (White, 2000). To minimize the pressure to conform, before the interview began the participants were informed there would be no right or wrong answers and that the researcher was only interested in the participant's experiences (Appendix B).

With the permission of each participant the interviews were recorded and some notes were taken during the interviews (Appendix D) To maintain

confidentiality all participants' names were changed. On average, the interviews lasted fifty-five minutes and approximately ten hours of interview data was collected. Phenomenological reflection is often difficult to interpret therefore each interview was summarized and analysed in parallel using a thematic exploration (Appendix E-N) to identify the key emergent themes (O'Leary, 2004). 'Theme' refers to an element that occurs frequently in the transcripts and can be understood as the 'structures of experience' (Van Manen, 1997).

Authenticity and Trustworthiness

According to Daymon and Holloway (2011) the preferred criteria for testing quality in qualitative research is: authenticity and trustworthiness. A study is authentic when it includes fairness, sharing of knowledge, and measures the 'truthfulness' of the participants' ideas (Daymon and Holloway, 2011). This was achieved by using a natural environment and by speaking to each participant prior to the interviews allowing them to comprehend the nature of the subject being discussed, reducing ambiguity and avoiding the participant from being dishonest. There are four criteria for evaluating trustworthiness: credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability (Daymon and Holloway, 2011). Credibility was achieved by making sure readers recognized the meaning from the study in their own social context. Transferability refers to the extent to which the findings from one research study can be transferred to another setting (Daymon and Holloway, 2011). Qualitative research often involves a small sample making transferability difficult. The intention is not to generalise to wider populations; however, readers can draw their own 'informed judgment' (Daymon and Holloway, 2011, p.125) when considering similar situations and settings. Dependability refers to the study

being carried out in a stable and consistent manner (Daymon and Holloway, 2011). This study relates, and is backed up by, other studies contributing to extended self. As mentioned previously the researcher developed an interview guide for consistency, which helps to ensure the dependability of the study. Finally, conformability is judged by how the findings achieve the study's aims and objectives (Daymon and Holloway, 2011). The data has been linked to the sources, to understand from where conclusions have been drawn.

As descriptive research is dependent on human responses there can be a danger of distortion of data due to the way the data is interpreted and questions led. Even though the same interview guide was used throughout all the interviews, the interviewer was still an amateur therefore lacking experience in interview techniques and analysis; this could have led to some false assumptions and missed findings. Awareness of these issues from the start means it is possible to reduce this bias to a lesser extent (Walliman 2005).

FINDINGS

This study's intention was to attempt to understand further the meaning of the extended self to an individual. Additionally, to appreciate how these possessions are used to symbolise past self and represent future roles during the liminal stage of transition, as already explored in Noble and Walker's study (1997). The findings from the interviews support previous studies in this area of research but it emerged that individuals' material possessions appeared not be as meaningful as previous studies had suggested in present self but still significant in extended self. Instead, social relations appear to take a greater importance in the

developing self-concept. These new findings relate to the work of Warde (2005), Miller (2010), and Jenkins et al. (2011).

It was noticed that some participants were more comfortable to disclose information and become involved in their experiences of the transition to University. However, across all participants there were commonalities, which have been organized into four main themes: social relations, stuff, impression management, and the changing self.

Social Relations

Through the use of elements from the ZMET technique the researcher was able to gather stories behind the collection of pictures that the participants had chosen to reflect themselves. It was noted that most participants included their family and/or friends in this selection of pictures, thus providing support for this theme: Social Relations. This relates back to academics work who believe social roles are used to support an individual's sense of identity (Ball and Tasaki 1992, Belk 1988, Csikszentimihalyi and Rochberg-Halton 1981, Schouten 1991). All of the participants included their home and/or University friends in their chosen pictures. Emily, 19, who is currently studying Sports Psychology and Coaching, and lives in a Unilet (University housing for students who did not get a place in halls) discussed a picture of her secondary school friends;

'I was there for seven years and it shaped my world, I chose my options there and it kind of leads to where you end up later.'

Andrew, 19, studying Engineering, also mentioned his friends;

'If you've got friends you are going to have a good time. A shoulder to lean on, and to just help each other out.'

This shows that these social relations are a main part of oneself in a time of change.

Most participants included their family as well in their selection. Andrew and Jennifer, 19, studying Marketing Communications, both living in halls discussed how important their families are to them;

'We spend a lot of time together and they have taught me key morals and stuff...I just love my family.'

'I've always been close to my family'

What is significant here is that both friends and family were addressed in all the participants interview tasks showing how an individual is connected to the people around them throughout their lives and several classed these social relations as a part of who they are. Through the phenomenological interview approach it was clear to see many experiences shared by the participants included the element of social relations. This relates back to part of Csikszentimihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) who discovered that self in some individuals is almost entirely invested in the social self. Van Manen (1997) also observed in his research that one's experiences often involved others and there is a need to retain social context. This,

alongside the findings, demonstrates the overwhelming importance of these social relations to the individual extended self.

Participants comfortably talked about their families throughout their interviews, for example Eliza, 20, studying Sociology and Social Policy, discussed her brother as being 'her family' after her father passed away when she was young and the fact that she was no longer close to her mother;

'Its just me and my brother now, so he means the world to me... I owe him everything, he is my idol, I just look up to him so much.'

This demonstrates the emotional connection that many of the participants had with their families and how they were a central element in the participant's experiences.. As Thomson et al. (2005, p.78) stated attachment to others is like a 'basic human need' and it leads to the conclusion that the participants' extended self, in particular their relationships with others is of high significance, even essential for the maintenance and preservation of self-concept. Previous research has suggested that in a time of transition these social relations matter more than ever to stabilise the individual's identity (Schouten, 1991; Noble and Walker, 1997). These transitions appear to even have the ability to strengthen these relationships further. This is demonstrated when Anna, 18, studying Exercise Science, and Beatrice, 19, studying Applied Geography, both discuss their relationship with their parents and how the transition to University had changed this;

'I talk to my mum a lot more now... we are kind of like closer friends.'

'I think moving away has made us closer.'

Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton's (1981) study also observed the closeness to parents and relating back to other previous studies, it is suggested that these relationships have helped to stabilise these participants' identities, through the preservation of past self. (Noble and Walker 1997, Schouten, 1991, Belk 1988). It appears that the participants maintain their past self as it gives them comfort in their transition and the participants have started to realise the true value of these social relations.

Stuff

When discussing material possessions directly it became clear that these were perceived as less significant than first expected (Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981; Noble and Walker, 1997). However, as noted, in more recent studies academics have started to acknowledge the significance of material possessions being such an important element of the extended self has started to fade (Miller, 2010; Jenkins et al., 2011). These material possessions instead have just become the 'stuff' we surround ourselves with to help with our overall self-concept. This stuff still plays an important role in how we portray ourselves, however it is not classed as identity itself. When the participants were asked to describe their process of moving to University, many did not mention any specific material possessions. Emily discussed how little time went into the decision of what to bring with her;

'I think there was a list somewhere on UCAS or somewhere... I just pretty much took everything from my room.'

This suggests that the decisions of what the participants brought with them was not such a meaningful activity as suggested by Csikszentimihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) and Noble and Waler (1997). Instead it could be more of a subconscious process that participants did not even realise they were involved in. These findings are also backed up by the amount of time packing took, as discussed by Beatrice;

'I left packing to the last minute, it was awful like literally like the day before.'

Nearly all of the participants took little time packing, assuming little thought was required for the process. This lack of attention to selecting what possessions to take to University, can be seen to support research in relation to the role of material goods in everyday life, such as Miller (2010) and Jenkins et al. (2011) who argue that there is an overemphasis on the importance of consumption in the development of defining self-concept. These findings suggest that material possessions are not at the forefront of the decisions of the individual identity. Material possessions could instead be seen as a 'backdrop'. This relates back to Goffman's (1959) work that suggests our possessions are 'props', to help us show who we are in our daily performance. Miller (2010) supports this idea and states that our material possessions actually work most effectively when we do not actually think about them we just accept them. Many participants went on to state

that they just took 'everything'. Even though no single possession was discussed in these experience it could suggest instead that these participants wanted to be surrounded with things they usually had around them, relating back to the idea of the preservation of the past self (Noble and Walker, 1997). Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) also suggest it is not always what the objects are, it is more how they have been selected and combined. Therefore, material possessions do still exist in our experiences and can be seen as part of our extended self even if they are not discussed directly. Another example of this is the amount of car space taken up when moving to University. Beatrice discussed her process of moving down to Bournemouth;

'I came with my whole family, we were the worst. I had like two cars full of stuff and everyone else just came with one car and I had two cars.'

As discussed it seems that many of the participants did not want to be without any of their stuff, and instead they needed to have everything, but nothing in particular. Chris and Andrew both mentioned this too;

'I more or less brought everything.'

'I just put my room into my bag.'

There is a sense of wanting to recreate the feeling of home, a desire to have what was familiar around them in a new, strange place, like discussed by Eliza;

'I thought it was pretty homely straight away, just cos of how much stuff I had brought'

These 'props' take a supporting role in making life seem 'normal' in new surroundings. These participants did in fact bring a lot of 'stuff' with them, but could not or did not specify many individual choices in this selection. This is relative to the study by Jenkins et al. (2011) who suggested that consumption may not represent such a significant presence as previous studies have suggested. Occasionally there is too much focus on this consumption element of individual identity; material possessions should only be seen as a part of identity, not identity itself (Warde 2005).

Despite the findings suggesting that material possessions do not take the predominant role in portraying identity there were a few participants that did discuss material possessions, which they felt, were important to them during this transition. Both Jennifer and Jo, 20, studying Tourism Management talked specifically about the photographs they brought with them from home;

'Pictures were a definite for me cos I think it makes a room look more to a person rather than a show room.'

'I brought like hundreds of photos so at least then it was like home.'

Csikszentmihalyi and Rochberg-Halton (1981) also mention the importance of photographs to individuals in their research. These photographs can help re-iterate the importance of tangible artifacts 'for expressing deeper human needs for relationships and continuity' (p.224). This relates to how the extended self is used to preserve the past self and in a time of transition, storing memories and social relationships to stabilize self-concept (Belk, 1988)

Through the use of the ZMET technique some material possessions were mentioned directly and seem to be an important part of self image. Chris, 19, studying Leisure Marketing and living in a Unilet talked about his Skateboard;

'I class it as my baby, I take it everywhere with me and its just nice' (Chris)

Andrew talks directly about his racing bike, which he didn't bring with him to Univeristy;

'Yeah my bike Nicole. Yeah she's called Nicole. She was too precious'

It is significant that a few of the participants possessions are seen as part of their self-concept, relating back to the literature discussed (Csikszentimihalyi and Rochberg-Halton, 1981; Belk, 1988; Noble and Walker, 1997) who argue that to understand an individual one must grasp what goes on between people and things to start to comprehend consumer research.

Impression Management

A key purpose of this research paper is to understand if there was a greater need for the extended self in a time of liminality. The findings have suggested that material possessions do not seem to be at the forefront of individuals' decisions about self-concept. However, it has been revealed that participants often consciously consider how others will perceive them, proposing there is actually a deliberate decision process when portraying self-concept. The researcher took a direct approach to ask the participants if they believed first impressions were important when portraying their identity to others. All the participants believed

that first impressions were key when meeting new people. Beatrice discusses her first day;

'You're trying to put on your best face to make the best impressions.'

This supports academics who believe that 'self-presentation' is used to influence how individuals are perceived and through constantly guiding the setting and appearance of themselves, individuals are trying to portray a positive image (Goffman 1959; Schouten, 1991). Through previous perceptions of what University will be like and how one is 'meant' to act the individuals have an understanding of this new situation. As discussed in Goffman's Frame Analysis (1974), these participants aimed to present themselves in the 'correct' way to make sure they 'fit in'. Both Anna and David, 19, studying Engineering felt there was a need for this;

'I wanted to make a good impression with everyone, you do feel you need to fit into this new world.'

'I think people judge people as soon as they see them, the way they dress, the way they look.'

This also corresponds with work by Greewald (1988) who proposes that the public self seeks social recognition and self-worth. The self has a need to be connected with others, and through impression management the participants believe this is achievable. Participants may consciously or unconsciously feel pressure to conform to the 'norm' to 'fit in' to the situation. This provides support for Goffman

(1959) who stated that the self constantly tries to guide a positive impression to the audience through changing the setting, appearance and manner of themselves.

The Changing Self

The final theme uncovered from the interviews was the idea of multiple selves or the changing self, in which an individual can establish multidimensional perspectives to fit into different life situations (Goffman 1959, Sirgy 1982).

Through previous research identity is seen as a dynamic tool that can be 'assembled and reassembled' (Shankar et al., 2009, p.76) and individuals are seen to be guided by their possible or desired selves (Hogg et al., 2000).

When asked directly if they believed they had changed, some participants were more than willing to admit that University had had an effect on them;

'I would say I've become a better person' (Chris)

Some participants did not directly admit to changing, however, when they were asked to describe their experiences of returning home for the Christmas holidays, their changing self became apparent;

'You kind of settle back into that life.' (Emily)

'We all get home and fall into normal life' (Jo)

As shown here when talking indirectly about their identity these participants appear to have changed from one identity state to another during their transition.

However, it is not a set change because they return to their previous identity when they return home. These multiple selves allows for the individual to switch between roles in different contexts, and the individuals identity becomes interchangeable (Sirgy, 1982). This corresponds with Goffman's Frame Analysis (1957) in which individuals adapt their identities to 'fit in' with the social context to help represent their self-concept in a positive way to their audience.

DISCUSSION

"A man's self is the sum total of all that he can call his."

(James cited by Belk, 1987)

From previous research it was initially thought that the participants would talk more about their material possessions specifically. However, throughout all the interviews, even though some were mentioned, these material possessions seemed to take a 'backseat role' in their experiences of the transition to University and their own views of self-concept. As Miller (2005) states material possessions do not become important to an individual until they become 'taken-for-granted.' Material possessions were not the focal point of the participants' identity as previously assumed; instead this 'stuff' is part of the overall setting of their experiences. These objects are still important for the 'performance' to take place and without these 'props' the stage of one's life is not complete (Goffman, 1959). Miller (2010) concludes material possessions are in fact important, but the reason is in fact because 'we do not see them' (p.50). Therefore, it will always be difficult to get an individual to say 'I am what I have' and acknowledge possessions as a central aspect of self as they are unaware of the extent to which their goods affect

them. Therefore individuals do not discuss possessions specifically and instead these possessions become 'the background or frame to our behaviour' (Miller, 2010: p.155). Due to this, consumerisation, even for researchers, will always be difficult to fully understand in relation to identity.

Even though possessions were not discussed directly it was noted that in a time of change the participants all felt the need to 'fit in' to their new surroundings and many believed impression management was significant to be perceived 'correctly'. As Goffman (1959) states the self is constantly trying to guide a positive impression; putting on a show for their audience, which is 'helped' through the use of their 'props' or their extended self. Perhaps then our material possessions help us construct how we want to be perceived instead of 'what' we are?

As Jenkins et al. (2011) state consumption is no longer enjoying 'the same presence as existing studies seem to suggest' instead these goods are 'relegated in order for social relations to take centre stage' (p.269). This research has suggested a similar notion of the importance of social relations as part of one's extended self. As Belk (1987) states the extended self is not only the material possessions you own but also your relationships and history. As in Jenkins et al.'s (2011) study the participants discussed social relations, which can be seen as the focal point of many of the participants University experiences. Throughout the findings all the participants spoke about their relationships with either friends and/or family, which demonstrates the emotional connection that they have with their 'audience'. It was particularly interesting to note that while an individual was in transition, and liminal stage in particular, it seems these social relationships were maintained

and also built upon. It appears that these social relations are not just a 'nice to have' but are essential to understand and develop self-concept. In the liminal stage of transition these relationships matter more than ever to stabilise one's identity and some of these relationships have even been strengthened by this new life stage.

Finally it was important to note the changing self in this transition, as the teenagers became University students. Most participants discussed their evolving identity, however some talked more indirectly about it, not truly realising that they had changed. This transition however does not seem fixed as the participants all seemed to change back to their previous identity when they returned home. It appears identity is interchangeable and an individual can have multiple selves for different situations in which the individuals adapt to 'fit in'.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to explore the effects transition has on the portrayal of an individual's identity, with focus on how the extended self is used to define, maintain and stabilise identity. Drawing from the phenomenological data it was discovered that the findings support the notion that the extended self is used to represent and stabilise self in the liminal stage of transition. Even though material possessions do not seem to be as significant as first thought, social relations as an element instead could be seen as essential, and are especially imperative to stabilise self-concept in a time of change.

It is necessary to note that this study did have limitations which if addressed could suggest future research for this topic. Firstly, during the interviews it was difficult to identify which stage of 'transition' each participant was currently 'in'. Even though it was anticipated that all of the participants would be in a liminal stage, some could have still been in the separation stage and others may have already reached aggregation. Noble and Walker (1997) state it is important to understand that the duration of transition can fluctuate in length widely as it depends on both the individual and the situation. This, in turn, can affect the dependence and importance of the role of possessions for each participant. This study's focus was on individuals' reflections of self-concept within the stage of liminality therefore, the participants selected were believed to be in this current stage of transition. However, when in this stage, individuals may find it difficult to understand the change, or some may not even realise they are changing. Van Manen (1997, p.10) states, ' a person cannot reflect on lived experience while living through the experience'. He goes on to mention that phenomenological reflection is not introspective but retrospective, leading to the understanding that when an individual is within the stage of liminality it is hard for that individual to understand the changes to their identity. Individuals instead find it easier to reflect on life experiences to understand the changes this life transition caused. Future research, therefore, could look at students who are either in the final stages of University or who have left already. They would find it easier to reflect on the 'lived experience' and understand better why they acted in a particular way. Also, Noble and Walker (1997) suggested, a longitudinal study could be used to trace the whole transition process and understand how people manage their extended self throughout the entire process.

Secondly, it was noted that material possessions did not seem to be as significant as first anticipated in the liminal stage of the University transition. However, this does not mean that in different liminal stages of life transitions this would still be the case. In different aspects these material possessions could in fact have greater influence on how an individual portrays their identity. One area for future research would be to investigate the effect of the liminal stage of transition in a number of different life changes to understand the consequences these cause to the level of consumerism, for example getting married, moving into a first home or even having a baby.

Finally, the findings also indirectly highlighted an area of potential future research. It was noted that the participants did not often talk directly about their material possessions, but these objects seemed to 'disappear' into the background. It would therefore be insightful to investigate how identity is demonstrated when these aspects of extended self are taken away, for example school uniform. Can this removal of individuality affect how one portrays and defines their identity and whether one needs the extended self at all to be themselves?

To conclude, this study has discovered there is a need for the extended self in times of transition and even though material possessions specifically do not appear to be as significant, they remain an essential part of how we portray self. This study also managed to emphasise the significance of social relations as another element of the extended self. These relationships appear to be imperative to stabilise self-concept in a time of change, such as the move to University.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A – Table 1: Participant’s details

Respondent	Age	Course	Date	Duration	Male/ Female
Abbey (Pilot)	22	Public Relations	13/02/13	60mins	F
Jennifer	19	Marketing Communications	15/02/13	56mins	F
Anna	18	Exercise Science	20/02/13	57mins	F
Emily	19	Sports Psychology	05/03/13	33mins	F
Eliza	18	Sociology and Social Policy	07/03/13	74mins	F
Niall	19	3D-SGI Design	11/03/13	34mins	M
Jo	20	Tourism Management	13/03/13	68mins	F
Beatrice	19	Applied Geography	15/03/13	55mins	F
Andrew	18	Engineering	23/04/13	55mins	M
George	18	Marketing Communications	24/04/13	38mins	M
Chris	19	Leisure Marketing	26/04/13	58mins	M
David	19	Engineering	30/04/13	59mins	M

Appendix B – Interview Introduction Script

I just wanted to thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview and meeting with me today. This interview should take approximately an hour and we will be talking about your experiences as a first year student at Bournemouth University.

I will be taping the session, as I will need to transcribe the interview afterwards for my analysis. Remember, you do not have to talk about anything you do not want to and if you do not wish to answer any of the questions I am about to ask you please just say pass.

Do you have any questions?

Before we start I just need to check that the recording device is working correctly, I will ask you a few basic questions about yourself:

- Please can you state your name
- Please can you state your age
- Please can you state your course
- Please can you state where you are currently living

Thank you, I will just play this back to make sure it is working effectively and then we will get started.

Appendix C – Interview Guide

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**
 - Where do you live and how long have you lived there for
 - What are you studying at university and why
 - Did you take a gap year, if so where did you go and why
- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**
 - Did you use the internet
 - Did you know anyone in Bournemouth or currently at the university
 - Was location a factor in your decision
- **Did you attend an open day, if so can you please talk me through what happened on the day**
 - What were your opinions on Bournemouth
 - What were your opinions on the University
 - What feel did you get from the place
 - Did you feel you would fit in
 - Did you look at any of the halls, if yes what did you think
- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**
 - Did you buy anything new for your room
 - When did you find out if you were in halls or a unilet, how did this make you feel
 - How long did it take you to pack up
 - Did you have an image of what it would look like

- **Talk me through your first day**
 - How were you feeling
 - When you first saw your room how did it make you feel
 - What was the first thing you did
 - When you had moved all your things in how did you feel
- **Material Possessions**
 - Was there anything specific you brought from home
 - Was there anything you left behind
 - What new things have you purchased since being here
 - When you went home did you take anything back/bring anything new
 - Is there any particular thing you share with others
 - Is there anything you prefer not to share
 - Is there anything you keep in your room that no one knows about
 - What are your favourite things in your room
 - Is there anything you still want/currently looking at buying
- **Picture Task**
 - Look through the pictures the participant chose
 - Ask participant to describe why they chose them and how they represent themselves
- **Settling in**
 - How easy did you find it to settle into your new surroundings
 - How long did it take you to adjust
 - Has it turned out how you imagined

- **Going home for Christmas**

- Talk me through your experience of going home for the Christmas holidays
- How did it feel to go home
- Do you think you act different at university and at home
- How was it seeing your friends again
- Do you think any of them have changed since going to university
- Do you think you have changed since going to university

- **Meeting People**

- How have you met people (house, course, club)
- Do you think first impressions are important
- Who are you closest to at university so far and why
- Is there any habits you have acquired from living with different people
- Have you changed anything due to the effects of others

- **Future**

- Who are you moving in with next year
- Are you looking forward to it
- What are you hoping to do when you leave university

Appendix D- Letter of Consent

I freely and voluntarily consent to participate in an interview with Sarah Loughlin as part of an undergraduate research paper, undertaken in partial completion of an undergraduate degree in Marketing Communications BA (Hons) at Bournemouth University.

I am aware that the interview will last approximately 1 hour, and that I will be asked to share my experiences regarding my recent experience of starting university.

Furthermore, I have read and am aware of the following:

1. My identity will remain confidential.
2. The researcher will record the interview.
3. Participation is voluntary and I may withdraw my consent, discontinue my participation in this study and withdraw my data at any time and for any reason, without penalty.
4. No royalties, payment, fees, or monetary rewards are due the participant for any current or subsequent participation or publication.
5. I may be contacted in the unlikely event that the University needs to check the validity of the research findings.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read the above and agree to participate in the study described.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please provide contact details for use only in the unlikely circumstances that the University needs to check the validity of the research findings.

Email Address:

Tel:

If you have any concerns after the interview or would like more information contact Sarah Loughlin either by e-mail (sarahloughlin4@hotmail.co.uk) or phone (07500 887270)

Appendix E – Pilot Interview

Name: Amy

Gender: Female

Age: 22

Course: Public Relations

Accommodation: Student House- Talbot Road

Length of Interview: 60:00 minutes

S: Ok so umm, what I am going to start by is just talking through a few experience you had ummm while at university umm, just so you can remember the times in your first year ... ok?

S: Ok so you can you just tell me a bit about yourself, umm your background, what you do and what kind of family you come from

A: Ok um so I'm 22, I'm in my final year of studying, I had a gap year so I came to uni when I was 19... yep. Then home life I m one of three, I'm the oldest so I have to younger brothers, I live quite far away from uni, so I don't live close, maybe about 3 or 4 hours drive to get home so I don't go home very often. Ummm umm what else have I got to tell you...and yeah I study PR

S: And why did you decide to study PR?

A: Erh I though it was a good mix of all the things I studied at school, I liked the kind of jobs it led to and its seemed like a kind of profession I would be interested in and I like the course at Bournemouth because it had good industry links, so I thought this would be a good place to study and a good course to study on, that may have changed... (Laughter)

S: Umm so you said you took a gap year, where did you go on your gap year?

A: So I spent about 6 months working in the UK, just to save up and finance my travels and then I went travelling around Australia for about 3 or 4 months

S: Cool, So did you go on your own or as part of a group or anything?

A: I went on my own but when I got there I had lots of friends I met up with

S: OK Um...

A: Oh and I did go on a tour for a month which was on my own

S: Ok um did you think, ummm, your gap year helped you moving to university?

A: Definitely... definitely, definitely. Even though my school life I was quite independent because I bordered I think that, ummm, having to look after yourself on the other side of the world and travelling on your own makes you a lot more

savvy, and it makes you realize where your comfort zones are and perhaps pushes them a little bit, umm, but I think it makes you a lot more sure of yourself

S: Ok

A: And I think when I got to university I could easily tell, or have a good guess of who had had a gap year and who hadn't

S: Interesting

S: So umm how did you decide on choosing Bournemouth Uni?

A Umm so I knew I wanted to study PR and umm... I knew Bournemouth was one of the top if not the top at the time place to come so, it was kind of a natural choice really.

S: Umm and di you like research it at all before coming?

A: Yeah originally I didn't plan on having a gap year I was going to go straight to uni and I was going to go to Birmingham to do a photography course that decision was based on the grades I was predicted and then I ended up getting better grades than I thought. So I had a last minute decision to have a gap year and just apply once I, once I, once the UCAS application system had opened again so I had done a lot of research, umm for photography and then, changed it and did probably about the same amount of research on PR up and down the country, and umm not a huge amount of unis offer it, many of the newer ones do but Bournemouth has been doing it for longer than anyone else because it use to be a polytechnic. So umm... yeah it was kind of an obvious and natural choice for me. I didn't mind that it was far from home cos I had just been travelling it wasn't an issue, and I just thought it was the best place I liked the idea of Bournemouth as a town, as a place, so it was a bit of a no brainer for me

S: And umm did you have any friends here at all, did you know anyone here at all?

A: Ummmmm no, I've got some distant family in the area but I don't see them since I've been at Bournemouth, there wasn't

S: It wasn't really a factor though

A: No, no, no

S: Umm so like did you come to Bournemouth before like for an open day like, did you come to one

A: yep

S: What happened on the day?

A: I cant remember if I had already accepted an offer by then but anyway it was mainly a day where we went round the media school and the library and the

facilities just to get a feel of the place and see what was there. You could get a pretty good sense of what was going on from the website, like what was on offer and then also we had a look round the accommodation... and they took us round the student village first cos that was obviously on campus and then.... And then the halls offsite, actually I don't think I went to them those... no I didn't I just stayed purely on campus and then had a cup of tea and went for lunch

S: Did you get like any feel from the place that helped with the deciding factor, on choosing Bournemouth, did you get like good feel from the uni?

A: Ummm, as I said this is all very retrospective, I can't really remember now but I think I think I had already decided I was going to Bournemouth. So I think when I was going around looking at it, it wasn't really a decision making process for me. It was more of a, I'm going to be here what does it feel like, and can I imagine myself here.

S: So ummm could you imagine yourself here?

A: Yeah, umm Yeah I think I knew I was coming here so I was just seeing what it was all about... the reputation of the place is enough for me to decide to come and yeah once I was looking around just... I didn't really have an idea of what uni would be like anyway but I had been to a few unis before and when I came to look round, yeah definitely liked it. There were a few campuses that I really didn't like the feel of but I think it was just lucky or maybe cos I knew I was coming here maybe I looked at it favorably, but yeah I could imagine myself here.

I: And you said you looked around the student village, umm but you didn't decide to choose that accommodation

A: No, because when we came down I realized that the student village, where it was in its location, was quite isolated umm it wasn't in the middle of town it wasn't well it wasn't particularly near any shops cos I knew I wouldn't have a car so I wanted to have an element of freedom that the student village didn't really allow for that because its sort of tucked away.

S: Ok, umm, so can you just tell me about your process of moving to Bournemouth, like how long did it take you to pack up or and did you do any shopping before you came here?

A: So, I'm just thinking how long I had in between so... I came back, sorry I'm just thinking

S: Don't worry, its fine

A: I came back in... June, so September is obviously the start so I went away again for a couple of weeks with my family and then I went away again somewhere else, So I think, I think I only had a month, had a month at home... in between coming home and going to uni and... yeah I think my mum was the main driving force in getting me to pack up and think about it err sorry what was the question, what...

S: What was the process, yeah like did you do it in a couple of days, did you...

A: Err, yeah so umm me and mum decided that we would go and buy some new things some kitchen, cos I don't have any older siblings who had already brought all the stuff, sort of hand me downs, so err, so we decided that I would need to go and get some, some crockery if that's the right word and kitchen bits and bobs and then, so we went to Ikea, and then we were actually there we ended up buying more stuff than we actually needed and I think that was, I think I was maybe conscious of how I was going to be perceived when I got to uni, so I wanted to have nice stuff, well not nice but things that I felt represented me.

S: So what things in particular did you buy for your room?

A: So for instance I could of just taken the old towel or whatever from home, got hundreds of towels, I could of taken any old bed linen but I ended up buying, well my mum was like you should have nice things, so I ended up buying three towel in colors that I liked, just sill things really and duvet covers that I liked as well. So I think, I think that a duvet cover just makes a room nice, especially when you a student living, like you just have a bedroom so like the bed is obviously the main part of the room, I think its nice to just have a nice bed.

S: Yeah so were you in halls or a unilet, and how long before did you know, where you were going to be?

A: Ages, cos I got, cos I was applying with my grades I was able to apply very early on and because of that I got first pick of the halls, so umm yeah

S: So how did you pick which one you were going to go for

A: Price probably, umm I knew that all of the halls offered, to a degree the same thing, I knew, I knew there were quite a few halls and I didn't want to go into the student village and I knew I didn't want to go into Hurn House cos the standard, not the standards but what was on offer was significantly less so for me there were three options, that offered pretty much the same thing, as in a room with an en-suite so then price was the deciding factor I guess so I went for Cranborne.

S: Yeah, so how long did it take you to pack up in the end

A: I think it was a gradual thing really, I'd probably say a week. Just gradually putting things in bags and stuff

S: And did you have an image of like what you wanted it to look like when you got there or was it

A: I hadn't seen my room so I wasn't there, I didn't really have any realistic point of reference but I imagined I'd have a nice desk where I was going to study so I had the folder printer stuff and things I could stick on the desk

like photos and stuff, umm I didn't know how much wardrobe space I would have or if I would have a bedside table or anything like that but umm yeah I just, I suppose I took stuff that reflected what I thought uni would be about.

S: And where, where had you got those kind of reflections from...from other people's experiences or was it what you had imagined it would be like, where do you get these ideas from?

A: Umm I think I just got them from myself, in terms of, if.. with a few things I knew there would be drinking game so I needed, not need to, but cards and things like that would be a good idea to take just it was less about my room I think it was more about what I thought the student lifestyle would be like, what things I would need to fit in with that, or fit around, or whatever.

S: Ok fine

S: Ok, so, the next one, umm I know its thinking back quite a while, can you try and talk me through what you did on your first day when you came to uni?

A: I think, I think err we stayed overnight because obviously I live far away. So we stayed overnight in a hotel and err I suddenly remember taking my clothes out of my bag and thinking oh I haven't brought anything nice, I'm going to look like an idiot but I only thought about that when it was too late and we arrive at Cranbourne morning ish time, 10ish or so, there was a big registration tent in the car park, you had to just go in and sign in and your allotted your room and then I remember errr there were cages like you have in supermarkets which you could load all your stuff into, luckily I was on the second floor, so that was good, I remember feeling happy about that, purely cos I couldn't be bothered to go up to the tenth floor with thousands of things, my dad was grumbling ummm yeah, we managed to park quite close so it wasn't too much of a faff but ummm yeah I did have quite a lot of stuff err yep I remember going up the stairs, mum was going up in the lift and I was just going up and down the stairs cos it wasn't far and I remember walking up behind this girl, didn't have a clue where she was going, and she went into flat two, and I was like that's mine as well, and she was wearing really nice clothes and I wasn't and I was like uhhh ok, anyway I went in and my room was the first one on the left and it was all blue, it was quite school like, you know, it wasn't fancy it was quite minimal. Errmm looked in my room and the first thing my mum said was 'god its tiny' errm and there, just cos there was six of us there was a hive of activity going on cos I think a few of the others had already got there errmm mums and parents were unpacking things and putting them in cupboards, my flat mates mum spilt gravy granules on the floor which I was laughing at. Yeah, it was a nice experience, it was exciting, yeah it was nice. Remember just thinking ahh, I'm not going to fit all my stuff in.

S: So what did you think, as you said you hadn't seen your room before, what did you think of, what your....

A: Err, what did I think... err I thought that I was going to have to make do anyway, it wasn't really, I didn't really have any expectations before but I'm quite like that

as a person I kind of just think, it is what it is and you make what you want to of it. So, err, very positive, it was very small, pretty pokey. But I was excited I had my own shower, which was pretty grotty, the toilet wasn't great. You know think about if you had ten years of students erggh, pretty gross. But yeah I was excited that I had my own bathroom; yeah I thought it was going to be cool.

S: And, umm, what was the first things you did to your room

A: Made my bed

(laughter)

A: Umm got my duvet out, made my bed, I just, I dunno, I just like doing that umm err and then I think I probably just left clothing to the end cos everyone hates doing that. I think I set up my bed and then set up my music, I think I set my music up as well, just because music makes things less of a chore. Yeah I think then I made my parents a cup of tea and just sort of lifting and putting things, and sorting stuff out and just basically getting stuff in the room.

S: Umm, ok, so did you like completely unpack in your first day or did it take you a bit longer...

A: Definitely took me a week

(Laughter)

A: Umm, I unpacked all the necessary items, I think, or did I, no, I think I probably did unpack fully cos I think by then, there wasn't any other actual activity to get involved in at that point or least I did most of it because I think I was there quite early, I think my whole house was there quite early. So I think everyone just unpacked first. I suppose looking back on it now it was because when your in a new situation with new people and your going to be living there. Your room is the only kind of thing you've got other than yourself to try and represent yourself. So I think I probably did unpack everything, I can't really remember but I think I did unpack everything and then I was kind of ready.

S: And how did it make you feel, did it make it more homely or did you feel like it still wasn't really yours yet?

A: Errr, I didn't think it was my yet. But that was probably cos I didn't really have any sort of attachment to the place yet as in the whole building, Cranborne as a whole yet. But I definitely felt like in sort of, in my new kind of lifestyle that I was beginning that my room was kind of a safe zone, cos it was mine, I could lock it. All my stuff was in there, err, yeah.

S: Looking back on it now, do you feel like you made it yours, does it bring back happy memories, like what do you feel about it?

A: Yeah, err now I think about it, talking about it, I'm remembering my photos, sticking them up down the side of my wardrobe and erm yeah it definitely has happy memories, ermm yeah I liked my room a lot. Yeah because of where it was in the flat it was next to the kitchen and the front door, and all the things noisily like the lounge, everyone use to come into my room like all the time. So I have really nice memories of it, being here, it's a welcoming place I think yeah... Or I hope it was

S: So umm was there anything specific that you brought from home

A: Ummmm, sort of thing like err I dunno like a teddy or something, specific things?

I: Just, anything specific, it could be a lamp, specific clothes...

A: with specific meaning?

I: ... It could be the music you mentioned before

A: Yeah, ok, I didn't really have anything with real meaning I don't think, you know some people have a teddy or whatever or lucky things I dunno, things like that, err I took my speakers, that was a really big thing cos I like music errr oh let me have a think, what did I take with me...

S: Well you said you also remember putting up photos up and stuff

A: I'm not really sure if that was initially, I did that throughout the year I do remember I had taken a hell of a lot of pictures on my gap year just from my travels and I did get them all printed out cos I thought it would be nice to have physical pictures, so I took about 200 or so, or 400, loads and loads of pictures, I didn't know where they were going to go cos I hadn't seen my room, but they were new and exciting to me and I thought they would be cool for other people to see as well, and thinking about it now, I totally forgot about this but I stuck a big big photo wall next to my bed forgot about that, so yeah I suppose my photos were one of the most meaningful things I took with me.... Yeah, I wonder where they all are now, umm yeah my photos, my speakers, I think it's interesting to look at what I didn't take, ummm. What else did I bring with me. I think that's all I can remember at the moment.

S: Yeah, so what is it about music that you like?

A: Umm, I think it fills a room, so I think if you are just going to be sitting around it's nice to have something on in the background, it just makes it a bit less of an empty space. It creates an atmosphere, I think it can say something and also I imagined there would be a lot of occasions where we would be all drinking together before going out so I thought it would be good to have set of speakers so we could all drink, be merry, have fun in the lounge.

S: Were you like, umm, like with your music choices when you got there were you thinking about what you wanted to listen to or...

A: Yeah, cos I hadn't really been in the country a huge amount before I moved to uni, I wasn't really up to date, I remember coming home and putting radio one on and thing urgh this is awful and I'd got so detached from it that I felt I didn't need it or it was something I didn't listen to anymore, so I very much had my own music that I listened to, I liked and I think I was probably excited to show it to people, I duno, or I wouldn't say I was proud of it or anything I just I duno this is what I like, I was very content with that, I didn't need to use it as a tool, it was pretty much, it was mainly for me.

S: And did it, does it like, bring back, like, was there any specific music you had related back to your travels then

A: ummm

I: Do you think of it like bring back good memories or is it just

A: yeah

I: Or is it just like

what you like to listen to

A: Bit of both really, I think probably there are a few tracks and playlists stuff that my friends, my friends made me so they were very personal I think, it was all music that I had positive associations and memories with, because of that I was happy to show it to, or play it to other people or yeah it had good memories.

S: Cool, so was there anything that you left behind

A: Yeah, probably I can't really remember.... There was nothing that I really wanted to take but I was too embarrassed to, or or nervous to take, you know, for instance if I had something that was very precious to me, I was nervous about taking, like I've spoken to other people and they don't like, my housemate now won't take anything nice to uni with him, clothes for example cos he thought that they would get ruined, I don't think I have that mindset at all, umm I probably didn't take things that I thought that would be not cool, ummm, I think when you first join uni everyone is quite materialistic because, I was anyway, because your meeting new people and I think everyone is taking people in quite a lot and I think part of that process is taking in what they are wearing, what they are thinking what there listening to, what there wearing I duno.

S: looking back on that do you think you've changed

A: In what way

S: In the way that you said you were trying to err, you took stuff you didn't take that was not cool, would you still feel like you had to do that

A: No, I now feel like, I don't think that is more about moving away from home, I think that's just being comfortable in my new surroundings and comfortable with who I am living with. I think when I first, when I first moved out I didn't know where I was going or who I was going with so I wanted to, look, it sounds terrible now but look as good as possible, not look good, seem as good as possible, umm where as now, I am really settle I don't really care what my housemates think cos they are all really good friends now, so I would just bring anything from home, I wouldn't really be embarrassed.

S: Cool, So

A: I probably wouldn't take precious thing, like I've got a rug I really like at home in my room, it would be really nice here down here in Bournemouth but its just got a lot of sentimental value attached to it, so I probably wouldn't bring it with me because I know things get a little bit frayed

(laugh)

S: So, ummm, like after you get there and stuff was there anything you when you went home for Christmas you just took back cos you didn't think it would fit in the house any longer or was there anything new you brought, like did you ask for anything for Christmas, anything specific you wanted more of.

A: Ummm, I don't think I took anything back. I think there were a few clothes I realized I didn't want with me, space wise cos I was quite conscious of it being a pokey room. I think I took thing back umm because I knew I wasn't going to need them, mainly clothes. Then when I came back, I got for Christmas a wok so that came back with me, my mum thought that would be nice, umm

S: So it was more practical than anything

A: Yes, Yes more practical, Oh I took a bike back, that was a big thing, because I didn't have a bike originally cos I couldn't fit it in the car and didn't really have one and then my grandma gave hers, umm, cos I needed one or I didn't need one I just realized that I wanted one that was probably a big thing I took back with me.

S: Now thinking about your final year, like, when you were packing your stuff up for another, final year of uni. Was there like any particular way of packing or did you just

A: Ummm, I sound like such a jet setter we, I went travelling with a group of friends and we got back a bout a week or so before, week 10 days before uni started so I really didn't have that much head space or time, ummm. So there wasn't really a huge thought process going into it ummm and I ended up packing in about a day, two days, I was just shoving stuff in bags really. I was a bit more practical. I Knew, I hadn't seen my room again, I hadn't seen it. I wasn't really that bothered either, I knew it wasn't the best idea to take summer stuff with me so like I did in first year I didn't bring any of my summer clothes down eith me ummm its

mire a routine now, now that I've packed up religiously ever year for four years its not really a process I put much thought into any more.... I dunno, I just don't. I don't know if I just cos I'm lazy or whatever. I think the thought process is much less and I kinda know what I take, I have possessions that I know I just leave at home cos I just don't use them at uni and things I know I just like to have with me, like for instance I will always pack my hairdryers and my straighteners, xyz clothing, umm

S: Do you feel like, umm, your first year room was more homely or your final year room is more homely?

A: Final year, yeah, cos in first years it more like a cubical, and there is 500 hundred of you all in a building umm its not really, not really a home, cos you live in a flat and its quite industrial, there isn't any kinda furniture that isn't kind of uniform it's a lot more rigid. Whereas here I've got a wooden desk with drawers and things. Also in first year everything was nailed to the floor or to the roof or to the window, you couldn't really move anything it was all set. Whereas since then all my rooms have been much more free and you can move things about

S: So, umm, do you think, what do you think makes something consist of a home

A: Umm, errr, I think making a home is about you having the option to do things so, umm the maximum options. In first year my options were what I stuck on the wall and what I didn't. But now I can do so many more things. I can have furniture I want I can move my room around. I think its just flexibility that is something that makes something a lot more homely and freedom to paint wall and whatever. I don't think this is a complete home because I would have different curtain or it wouldn't be gunge colour. Etc. etc.

S: So, umm, So the next question is more about how you share your things and like you were saying in your first year you had quite an open room, like you didn't mid people coming in and out and its just how you thought like is your room a place for you yourself, like there was one point you saying your room was quite open but also you described it as quite a safe zone. Like what do you think on that.

A: Like so when I said safe zone, I meant safe zone in Bournemouth I think, so in this whole new world I am living in that's my little hub, my room. Umm Im a really open person, now looking back I've always had a room right next to the front door in every house its just worked out that way just by, luck of the draw or whatever ummm or unluck, I like It though people coming in and out, I like it. I duno I dunno I cant really imagine it any other way I've just always had people walking in and out of my room really freely and I don't know if that's because of the location of my room or because people feel they can umm they feel comfortable just walking in. I don't know

S: So what is your opinion on sharing things, is there anything you get annoyed when people borrow or are you quite an open person.

A: I'm quite an open person really, my policy with borrowing is if you break it you buy it, I guess where I draw the line with things which can't be replaced so I'd get pretty picky if someone wanted to wear my fur coat because you can't just go and buy another one easily, I know to an extent it could be replaced but things that have sentimental value attached to them as well I'd be hesitant to lend out.

S: Is there anything specific with you in your final year that you have with sentimental meaning that you wouldn't share.

A: That I wouldn't share, hmm, let me have a look....what would I not share, my toothbrush....I would be hesitant to share my bike, I don't know why I just really like my bike ummm I would share it with people I trusted but I would be as free with my bike, like I would with other things... my laptop. I think just things that are expensive. Umm sentimentally though let me have a think, I'm not really a hugely sentimental person ummm probably umm some jumpers that my mum had when she was younger, I really like them, and even though people do wear them, I don't really like it hugely. Especially when I know someone drips food all down there front

(laugh)

A: Umm I think, I like to look after things. I'm happy to lend things to people but only as long as they look after them. Not very sentimental at all I suppose.

S: No, but you don't need to be do you.

A: I've been sentimental in the past and you end up losing something or whatever and you have to just get over it so I haven't done it consciously, hmm I suppose.

S: I presume there is nothing in your room that no one knows about then

A: No, No I don't think so, I think everyone has been in every draw I have in my room, cos I'm a bit messy so I just put things in drawers. Yeah I don't think I have anything that I wouldn't want people to see in here.

S: No

A: No... I don't know if that is because I'm really open about everything or I have no shame ha, I'm pretty open, I'd find it a bit weird if someone went through my underwear draw but who wouldn't

(laugh)

S: So, ummm what I mentioned you to previously that I want you to think about one of two favourite things you had in your room and you've already said that you have got anything hugely, but is there anything in particular

A: Umm like I said my fur coat, I really like it. Probably what would I be very sad to lose, well I would say some jewelry that I have that I am attached to. I recently

lost.... Oh I know what I wouldn't share with anyone yeah I've just thought about it now. I've got a ring that belonged to my great grandma, then my grandma and it is now mine and that I would let anyone where that because it is really delicate and fragile its very meaningful. I would find, I would be extremely upset if I lost that.

S: What do you think its means, what do you mean by meaningful

A: Cos it is so old and its something that has a lot of history attached to it which is something that takes time and isn't something you can just buy and I think it also has meaning cos also it wasn't mine, it was passed down to me, so I have to take into account the meaning it had for other people as well as me ummm but then equally recently I lost a ring that had been given to me from my grandma from the other side of the family and yep I was upset but it was gone so I kind of had to get over it. Oh also there is scarf I don't like people using as well, thinking about it, umm that was my grandmas and it was expensive.

S: Umm when I like am just looking at your room like it seems you use your mirror for quite a lot of random bits and bobs that seem to have collected, it seems the most kind of centre piece of your room. DO you have any kind of reason being that, or like is there any particular things you have chosen to put there at this point or is that they just kind of that they fit there.

A: Do you mean why have I chosen my mirror specifically?

S: Yeah, no

A: Or just why there

I: Yes just why there and why the objects

A: Why there, its just because of the layout of my room, its directly across from my bed so I can look at it and it's the thing you see walking into my room, so I like to put things where I am going to see them when I walk in. umm, also I spend a lot of time

(laugh)

A: No not really, so umm I've just got all my toiletries and stuff there its kinda like a collection point for all my things. I suppose I'd ideally like to have it above my desk but I've got a window there so I don't have the option of putting things there and also in our tenancy agreement you are not allowed to use blu-tac so I would put stuff above my bed as well but because my room is right next to the front door if the landlords came in they would definitely see that I've used blue-tac so I'm hesitant to do that. So I've just kind of used my mirror as a bit of a pin board because I cant use anything else

S: You seem to have like quite a collection of postcards

A: Yeah I do don't I

S: Yeah, do you just like collecting postcards or is something you have just sort of accumulated over time.

A: Ummm Yeah I have got cards umm, I think they all have, each, they individually have meaning because they are brought for an occasion quite regularly umm and they have a lot of memories attached to them. Same way photos do I suppose but I think I have more postcards than photos at the moment purely because I haven't been to the shop to print photos out. Umm, this interview is making me want to do that more. But yeah I like those cards cos its not just about the card its about the person who has got it for me as well.

S: And do you think like, like you can look at each of them and feel, like tell a story behind them

A: Yeah I guess so

S: Ok, why don't you pick one and tell a story then

A: Ok so umm there is one of a card which has a little onion on it and it says thanks shallot and that's from my aussie friend Clare who I met on my gap year and she came to stay with me in London for a couple of days, well she was in London and needed a place to crash or whatever and she just crashed at mine and I gave her my room for 3 or 4 nights or whatever and we had a really nice time and then I had to go to work so I didn't get to say bye properly but when I came home from work she had left me the little card on my bed with some chocolates and yeah so that's that memory. Then I've got a postcard from my friend when she went Amsterdam and its got meaning cos it's a cheesy saying that I say errr, I've got another one from the same friend from when I went to visit her

S: So do think you have them as memories or relating more to people, what do you think they are more related to?

A: Umm I'm going to be greedy and say both, a memory with a person. Umm yeah, because there is one up there that is completely random its I cant even remember where it is from it's a little picture of Dorothy and its an advert for the V&A's Hollywood exhibition and I think someone just picked it up for a joke and we just ended up carrying it around all day, I dunno but now I like it and I cant even remember what the story is behind it but I know there is one and I like it.

S: Ok

A: There a few things up there that are pictures that I quite like but yeah.

S: Umm is there, sorry, umm, is there anything you are currently looking at buying or you want to change or feel that is missing

A: Definitely, I am missing a headboard for my bed, and it makes my mattress look really lonely. Just a bare mattress against a wall, so I would say a headboard is one thing I am missing. Another thing I would like to get more of is photos, so after this

I'm probably going to go print off a couple of hundred umm cos I love the memories they have with them err I'm missing a curtain cos I pulled it off the wall.

(Laugh)

A: Yeah and I hate my curtain cos they don't do anything, so Im thinking I might get some new curtains. what else...

S: Is there anything you want for yourself.

A: For myself, errr, some new clothes but that's like always. I would like for myself I duno, I would like my desk to be better but that's just cos the room is too small, umm yeah I would always like new clothes or more clothes and more jewelry or things.

S: Do you think there is a reason why?

A: Its, Its exciting and recently I found a shop that sells like bits and bobs, like old bits and bobs of jewelry and cups and stuff and I would love to buy new crockery and plates and jewelry and things blah blah blah but soon I know I will be living in a house where I, where I will have a much longer term view on things I wont be moving out after a year so I can dig my heels in a bit, make it a bit more of a personal residence.

S: DO you feel like then you can never really ever fully settle into a place at uni

A: Errr its not just at uni, I just feel like each of my rooms is for such a short amount of time cos I know I am only going to be there, like when I move in I know exactly when I am going to move out and I know that I am very practical in the sense that everything in this room is going to have to go into a boot of a car so I'm not, even though I would like to, I am not going to buy a new chair, even though mine is crap, I am not going to buy a new chair for my desk, I am not going to buy a headboard for my bed cos I would just have more stuff to deal with when I move out. Umm yeah so I think the elements that have stopped me buying more is the temporary state that this room provides, the practical knowledge that I am going to have to pack it all up and also the fact its not really that big and I don't really want a hugely cluttered room, even though it kind of is already.

S: So, umm I'm going to go back to talking about your first year again, umm how umm easy did you feel it was to settle into your new surroundings and umm do you think you adjusted to it well and do you think that's down to where you were or who you were with?

A: Umm, so looking back, I think fresher's week, is kinda, its not really reality because its all about the nights out so you spend a lot of time, well this my experience anyway... oh my Barbour is another thing I wouldn't like anyone to take haha, I forgot about that, I would be very very sad if I had to part with my Barbour, sorry I just saw it. Yeah I think your first week of uni you are plunged into something that is not really very realistic and you spend a lot of time getting drunk

and the days are therefore spent in bed cos you feel so awful for for the first week but you bond very quickly cos you are not sober so I think, the days I have to say I didn't do a huge amount of activity I remember I watched the whole series of 1 2 and 3 of skins but I think after that after you break that initial ice burg you, I think I bonded with people very quickly. One of my flat mates pretty much moved into my room so yeah I think I found it quite easy, like I get, I find people exciting, I like meeting new people and hearing their stories or whatever so I was never very hesitant to do that and I knew I was going to have to, well I didn't really see it like that but I wanted to

S: And did it kind of turned out how you imagined it to, you said you had this feeling of what university was going to be like, how did it turn out

A: So, how I see uni is all about looking back, its all about looking. Like I heard about university from my parents and they can only look back at it now cos its been so long since they graduated but I think, I didn't realize it at the time but I think I had this notion where uni was the time where you are meant to do crazy things, slight wacky or things that are a bit weird and looking back we definitely did do that. I just had a flash of memory of being pushed through a car park in a trolley at about three am, yeah I suppose what I expected it to be, but I would never have realized it at the time because I'm probably looking back at it through rose tinted lenses.

S: Ummm, so like, do you think that your personality at university is different to how you use to act at home.

A: ummm

S: D o you think you have changed coming to university

A: Probably not, if any think I was maybe a bit louder, not dramatically I say I act the same as I did at home. I had a pretty boisterous group of friends at home as well, I think, yeah I was use to people being pretty louder and will do and crazy so then, I'm not a quiet person but in comparison I probably was quite a quiet one of the group and then err coming to uni I didn't have such a huge amount of character loudness to contend with so perhaps I became a little bit louder.

S: Do you ever think, like go back and go I've changed a lot since starting?

A: Yeah, but I think that is not to do with first year, I think that's just a thing that has happened over time and things that have happening in the gap between 1st and fourth year since then I've had my placement year, stuff has gone one, yeah like whatever, just life experience. And I think I look back at first year and I'm like wow god I was is different and easy and small, and fun

S: So how did you meet people first of all, was it like through the people you lived with, the people on your course or did you join a club or society or something. Like where did your friends come from

A: First of all, in my flat, one of the girls in my flat new someone that was starting as well who she had coincidentally met in an airport in Africa or something. And she coincidentally was on my course so that was a god loop. Originally it was just my flat but cos of the layout the halls were in, there was a flat directly through a wooden fire door and I cant remember how but we ended up being friends with them probably just proximately, I dunno we were probably doing some prank under their door or something but I suppose proximity was the first thing that err allowed me to form a group of friends then after that my seminar group for my course I was really friendly with, I had a really good group we all got along very well and had like a weekly social where we would go round to someone's halls errr I didn't really go out with my flat mates course mates no, I don't think I did. So yeah just flat mates course mates at first and then there was a fresher fair in the first couple of weeks and we went with the other flat through the door and there was this big rush to sign up to the rowing team and I remember holding back even though I hadn't really thought about rowing, and I wasn't really hugely interested in it, I was more interested in joining hockey cos I wasn't really that interested in joining something new at the point I guess I hadn't really thought about it, I'd played hockey at school, I thought I would go for it and I enjoyed it and it seemed everyone was joining the rowing team and I was like hang on I've only known you guys for 2 weeks I don't know if I want to put all my eggs in one basket and do everything together, so I didn't join the rowing team errr yeah.

I: Ok, so who do you think you are closest to at uni

A: umm My flat mate who I met in first year

S: Yeah

A: yeah, For sure

S: Why do you think your so close to her

A: Umm, why do I think we're so close, umm what reflecting on a specific year?

S: Err no just reflecting on it as a whole, do you just get on quite well or like did you have quite similar habits, or

A: Yeah I thin, we made friends very very quickly in first year and I think because, we just got on very quickly because fundamentally we are quite similar in terms of our families we are quite similar and have a similar outlook on things and life in general so I think that was the good base, but I think because of how first year isn't really a reality I think it grew really quickly because you have the option, possibility, to spend so much time with each other and I think because we were initially so close, well no so close but initially close I think that we felt that maybe we were taking on new things together. Maybe there was the element of comradery or lets try this, lets do that. I dunno it was quite share, I cant really remember but everything became joint quite quickly I think but without really realizing it, it wasn't really a conscious decision. We didn't do shopping together or anything but we would buy pretty much the same thing but just have our own

versions of it, which is silly looking back now but I think as I've gone through uni I have always lived with her part from when we were on placements we were in different cities but I don't know I don't know why we are so close I think we just get along... probably rely on her slightly too much but that's probably and I dunno I think because we have always been so close so stable, I think probably I feel like she is constant, if that makes sense. Just something really familiar, yeah the familiarity of it, is something that's a big factor.

S: Yeah, So from anyone, from the people you have lived with, is there any habit you have picked up or required or is there anything you think that after living with someone they have made you do more, or is there anything you have changed

A: Oh I'm sure I have

S: like brought new things to try, and be like oh that persons got that, or I should have that or like changed your music taste or changed what you eat, like just looking back going from first year to now.

A: Ummm

S: When I think about it, every since starting uni actually all my group of friends seem to dress similar because we borrow each others cloths and we share each others stuff and so that's one of the factors I think, I think I've also expanded what I eat, I use to eat very similar things, but now when someone cooks something it makes you think ooo I could make that now

A: Yep, I definitely agree with both of those for sure umm, yeah I think also yeah, I think you kind of pool in similar things so I dunno, Like one of my flat mates now has lots of cookbooks and Ill thumb, and if I see her making something ive never of heard of Ill definitely thumb through the cook book as well and see what else is in there, maybe try those new things ummm habits wise... I definitely have picked up habits, One thing I would say is we now all speak the same, like we've got a little bit of jargon going on where if I say it to anyone outside our group its just a bit weird, or it doesn't really have the same meaning or its not funny or whatever. Ummm I think umm yeah I have definitely picked up habits, I'm finding it quite difficult to think of them because I'm not generally that aware of what I'm doing, it is something that would have to be pointed out from an outsider I think.

S: Yeah you don't even realize you are doing it now.

A: Exactly cos it is just it

S: So final little section now, so what are you hoping to do after uni

A: What am I hoping

S: Yeah what is your next step

A: So next step is, I know my tenancy finishes here on a certain day, so I know realistically that's the end date for Bournemouth for me to be living anyway, unless I move in with someone else. So I know realistically I'll be leaving Bournemouth towards the end of June errmm or July actually and I am hoping to kind of leap frog from Bournemouth to London. Errm I finish my studies in May and I would like to have free time before I go into my 9-5 job which is the planned I think that gap between May and July is enough for me to do that, I've just been travelling recently, 6 weeks, and I umm I don't think I want to do that again so I feel like its time for me to crack on with my career a little bit, I feel like I am not itching to get on with it, but just restless and excited to see what's on offer.

S: Is there any reason you want to go to London in particular

A: Umm for my job, it's where the hub of it is, I think you'll struggle to do PR on an island off Scotland. Umm also that's where I spent my gap year and I have really fond memories of it and its exciting and London is a place to be young and I feel like I wanna join the rat race a little bit

S: Umm, and you said at the start of your interview, way back, page 1 that when you chose PR it was blend of all your options and it led to a job do you think that's what you want to do now, do you feel that the way you envisaged what you wanted to do then is similar to what you want to do now

A: Umm yes, I mean now my knowledge of PR has expanded and it is very multi faceted and it is not what I thought it was at the beginning and PR is something that can be done in many different disciplines and different ways and whilst it may not be called PR it may be called communications or something its still essentially, it is strictly speaking PR. So I cant remember what question I was answering

S: So It was just saying is it still what you want to do

A: Yeah, yeah it is, it hasn't scared me off yet

S: Ok, umm I think that is it

A: Yeah, sure?

S: I think I have dragged most of the stuff out of you, for one go, and yes thank you for taking part and umm if you have any future question let me know, thanks.

Appendix F – Interview Transcript 1

15th February 2013

Name: Jennifer

Gender: Female

Age: 19

Course: Marketing Communications

Accommodation: Halls- Purbeck

Length of interview: 56:20 minutes

I: Ok, so we are going to just start off with a very simple question. Can you just tell me a bit about yourself? About your background, your family and things like that, where you live

J: Ok, so I live about ten minutes away from Henley-on-Thames, which is famous for rowing. We, I've got a sister and my parent which we are good we are all still together and we live in a decent sized house with lots of grounds, very outdoors family, I've got a horse, only have one now so I spend a lot of time outdoors if I'm at home and I've got friends who all live in Henley or Reading so we'll all meet up on the weekend or something, and I went to an all girls school, I bordered for a bit and yeah

I: OK, and did you take a gap year before coming to uni

J: I did, yeah I went, I went, I started in France went out there and staying in a crew house by myself and looked for a job, and got one on the first boat which I was on for six months we were in Palma and Spain and France. Second boat we were on, was on for two weeks and then the next one was about a week and then the next one was about four months. So yeah

I: Wow

J: So yeah like the whole year

I: So err did you go out there on your own or did you go out there with friends

J: Yes, I went on my own, my parents were very emotional, in the airport, but it was like, it was quite good for me to go out by myself and meet, like have to meet people I had never met before by myself, it was a really good experience.

I: Cool, so was it like the first thing you've ever done like that before

J: Oh yeah, yeah, I've always been close to home and the longest I had been away was for like a week so that was like the biggest thing I had ever done, and on the first day I got there I remember I went to my bed and I was lying there and it just, I just hit a wall of realization that I didn't know anyone and I didn't have a job and I didn't even speak the language of the country I was in, it was horrible, but yeah got through

I: Yeah got through it and did it for a whole year

J: Yeah

I: That's cool, and what are you studying at Bournemouth

J: Marketing... communications

I: And how did you come to choosing that course

J: Ah that's a tricky question, ah ok my mum cos she, when she first worked, when she use to work, she worked for like an ummm, what was it, John Lewis or Marks and Spencer's a department store and basically was like pitching umm toiletries products to them, so she knew the whole marketing advertising and was pitching to them and that all really interested me. And my dad is like umm a chairman of a company and so he is really into his business so I kinda always knew I wanted to do business from them cos like I do want to earn money at the end of the day and marketing has money in it and I just, just I didn't really think of any other subject, I just, I thought of that one and kinda just stuck with it.

I: And how did you choose Bournemouth

J: Umm I went on the UCAS things and I was just looking at all the universities that had Marketing as a course and obviously Bournemouth is near the top soo I just looked at it, and we actually have family friends that go to this uni as well in their final year so I like got in contact with them and messaged them about what their experience had been and what halls they liked and everything, to get more information and they all said the nightlife is really good which is important and umm yeah they all just said its really friendly and I came to visit on one of those open days, it wasn't actually an open day, we did like a self guided tour, cos I came down with my family and umm I literally just looked round the campus I didn't even look into the lecture theatres or anything it just felt friendly, I just kinda felt like I chose it straight away< I was like yep definitely.

I: Ahh cool , so you hadn't gone into any lecture or anything just had a look around

J: No, literally went into Poole house, the main building. Went into the cafeteria and then walked around sports BU we looked around that bit, and literally that was it and then went back to the car park and ...

I: and did you go down to the beach and stuff as well

J: Yeah, we went for lunch on the beach, we made a day out it, like we went to town and went to the shops and yeah

I: Cool, and umm what did you think of the university when you saw it

J: Friendly

I: Yeah

J: Yeah I liked it, it kind had a nice feeling to it. We went to see Cambridge, not Cambridge, not that clever ummm Cardiff and umm Brunel went to visit. That was a big mistake, didn't like that one. Yeah they were much more of an education, like at the end of it you are going to have a degree and nothing else where as Bournemouth is more like you are going to get good friends, it was more of a just a good degree

I: Yeah I had that too, I remember when I came down here and was meant to be going to a different uni and I was like ahh I don't have the grades for that one Ill come and look at Bournemouth and I was like I like this one, I like it here, its not too big its not too small, its just a good size,

J: Yeah friendly

I: and the first thing they said to us on the bus was there is more pubs and clubs here, in like every square mile than anywhere else I the UK (laugh) and we were like sold.

I: So, did you look at any of the halls before you came or

J: Nope, on halls wise I relied on what my friends had told me, and he was in Corfe house, and he was like don't choose there cos its so out of the way, but Purbeck is a good party halls, like everyone goes for pre-drinks there and then Cranborne it not so good, its being refurbished now, like I just basically took his word, he was like basically anywhere apart from Hurn or Corfe so I was like fine ok, and I got my place and then I deferred my entry so I had a whole year to look at the different halls and decide and also I got to apply to them straight away so I didn't have to worry that I wasn't going to get a place.

I: Yeah cos that is one of the things

J: Yeah, stress free

I: So, did you, had you looked at them online, at all, had you seen what you room could look like

J: Oh yeah, I looked, I had gone through the whole Bournemouth website. I looked at the course, I had listened to the You Tube videos of what the Marketing course was like, I had looked at Purbeck house, yeah, at the end of the days halls is never going to be nice so I can make it as nice as I can.

I: Yeah, exactly it is still quite a small little plain room. So can you tell me about your process of moving down here like did you do it in a day, did you do it in a week, did you do lots of shopping before hand.

J: Ok, so it was my mums birthday when we moved in on the 16th September and so in the morning we had all her presents and everything and came up too, I think we went for lunch and it was just, we went for lunch before so with the family, obviously, but I didn't want my sister to come up, cos I thought it is more about me

this time and I didn't want all the people I know to meet my sister and be like think she is the one moving in and everything so I kinda said to her, look you won't want me to come to your moving in day when you go to university so I don't want you to come to mine, so it was just me and my parents so we drove down loaded the whole car up and arrived here afternoonish and got the massive trollies, I was quite nervous, towards the end of the day, I was just like oh god what, but to be fair my gap year helped me out cos I had been through that whole meeting people I've never met before so much so I knew everyone else would be a lot more nervous than me, but we got given these massive cages and loaded all the stuff from the car, did like two or three trip up to luckily the first floor and moved my stuff in. I wasn't actually in this flat originally, I was in the other flat so I met one of the guys who was already there and he was really nice and chatty, he had also been on a gap year so just chatted about that and things we had in common, and then my parents, well they left me to unpack my room, make my bed and put my pictures up and they left to go to B&Q cos one of my lights wasn't working so, and to get some hooks for my hand rail, bits and bobs you don't really have, like the shelf, towel and trays and everything. So they just left me to unpack and chatting with max. and no one else came in to our flat for ages so we just went on a wonder round to meet all the other people in the same floor. And then my parents came back gave me all the new bits and bobs for my room and then they left and yeah, and then we just kinda got all the flats together and then we just started drinking really early and went out.

I: So you were in a different flat to start off with?

J: Yeahhh, it basically, there was one other girl and three guys and two of those guys were just not pleasant they very much like mummy's boys so everything had always been done for them, the kitchen was disgusting, I was the only one to wash up cos the other girl was quite relaxed so max was actually quite good but it got to the point where it was, I don't know if I can say this?

I: Yeah its fine to say it, don't worry

J: Ok, like there was this one night where they were all, got back at like 5 in the morning and they were all sat in the common room, our lounge and they were umm they were playing like musical instruments where one of them had a iron and was banging it, and one of them had a fork and was ramming it up and down the radiators, basically making as much noise as they could and I was like the second room away from them and I had like quite far away but could still here them really loud and umm I went out and I just asked them to like turn, keep it down, like there had been a lot more stuff than this, but umm it got to the point where they all, they got my eggs out and were like cooking them in the microwave, like exploding them, so they were making massive bangs, and it got so far as to one of the guys then pooed in the egg box tipped the poo into the microwave and cooked it so it stank out everywhere

I: What?

J: So it got to the point where they were like lets chuck the microwave out into the hall and umm so obviously that got

reported and you know, yeah, you know it really wasn't very nice, they were all like

I: That is horrible

J: I had guys either side of me so one of them was always playing Fifa, like with all their friends round, so noisy cos the walls are so thin and I just really hated it, so I called my parents

I: Yeah fair enough

J: being like I really don't like, I'm really down right now and they were just like Jess just come home and I'll come up with you on Monday, you're changing rooms as simple as that, your not going back into that room, they are quite like you know that's not nice to be around

I: Yeah of course, my dad would go crazy at that

J: So, umm, oh yeah, so luckily my parents didn't see them because they probably would of... (laugh) make them learn a thing or two, so yeah I moved across the corridor literally, and like those guys still don't speak to me, don't know why, yeah

I: Ah, well at least there was a space in here then

J: God yeah, Like I knew Becca and Sam, the two girls in here already, and they were like this guy has been kicked out for one reason or another so just come in here with us, and I was like ok,

I: Ah that's so cool

J: So yeah it worked out well.

I: And so you had to come and re-do your room again

J: Yeah that was a bit of pain, the pictures especially

I: Yeah you've got quite a few up

J: Yeah, my dad was moving all the pictures and he put all the pictures of him in the bottom left hand corner, so I could see them

(laugh)

J: But I've changed them back now

I: Aww, he wants to be remembered

J: Yes

I: Aww wow, so it was err

J: It wasn't a good first experience of uni, I was doubting if I was going to last it was really horrible, I cried quite a lot in the first week, no in the second week, I just couldn't stand, there was just like drugs and

everything and I have obviously have never done that before so I was like what the hell is happening

I: Yeah of course, cos I guess you kinda have expectations of uni, a kind of idea of what uni is going to be like and I guess it was quite different to what, that side of it

J: Yeah it was, especially cos in like the first week, you stick to your flat mates being your only friends and the base of your friends, so the fact I didn't like hanging out with them was a serious worry point for me, cos I was like every day I have to see them, I really cant avoid them and how am I meant to enjoy this, so yeah it wasn't great.

I: That's a bit traumatic, not the best start to uni

J: No, no no, the guy has actually been kicked out of Purbeck now

I: Have they?

J: He then went upstairs, cos he use to live up in the flat up there with one of my friends Jodi and he kicked one of the girls doors in, unlocked it kicked it in, this is about 4 in the morning and then pooed on that girls pillow case, he has a problem with that. So yeah then we complained about that, and cos I had already handed in a written complaint about that I wanted to move, so obviously that case and that was now like a you're out.

I: Fair enough, well at least he is gone

J: Good

I: So did you buy anything new to bring with you to uni

J: Oh, I brought loads of new stuff (laugh) My mum and I went shopping for like weeks before, so like all of my kitchen stiff was new like plates and cups, and all my stuff is spotted so like and my cutlery is all coloured so I could tell which is mine, and I brought good pots and pans so its all like non-stick

I: Lovely

J: Loads of new food, all dry stock that my mum could help me out with and then like bed sheets, brought new bed sheets, and printer and I brought a new laptop and like toiletries, literally everything was new, it was good.

I: Good moment, that's when your parents can kinda like spoil you cos your moving away

J: yeah, oh and stationary obviously have to do some work at some point

I: Did you feel like there was some things you had to have to fit in, to be able to bring to uni, like all your stationary and stuff, do you think you picked any of it especially

J: Errmm, like yeah, like stationary not really, I'm quite an organized person so I had kinda planned it loads in advance, I definitely, pictures were a definite for me cos I think it makes a room look like, you know, look more to a person rather than a show room, it was nice

I: Especially when you are in like flats, you cant really do much to make it your own

J: Yeah like the carpets are horrible, its all basic stuff, oh I brought a rug as well, I basically did as much as I could to make it as homely as I could.

I: Yeah, that's good, I like your photos, it's a good wall

J: Yeah, it's colourful

I: yeah so are most of them from home or here

J: Most of them are holidays, I love going on holiday, we go on holiday every year.

I: Yeah, hot holiday, cold holiday

J: ummm, hot. We go skiing once a year for a week generally, and then we've got a place in south France so we go to that for a couple of weeks over the summer and then we'll always go to the Caribbean in the winter and then maybe Saint Tropez in the winter time

I: nice, keep your tan topped up.

J: Well you know (laugh) I like to try

I: Ok, so now that you have moved out of the other flat do you think you have kinda, like you've made it your own little room now, from the blank canvas

J: yeah definitely, I think, it will never be home and after going home for a weekend and then coming back here its kinda a depressing moment cos you do realize all you've got is this one room with a desk and a bed in it, yeah its not a nice feeling, but at the end of the day we are just here for a degree

I: Yeah it really is, and you'll keep moving from one house to the next

J: Im excited to live in like a student house though, cos it will be better. I'm living with like 7 girls next year, well 6 other girls, yeah. And we are all really excited about that.

I: Whereabouts is that?

J: Wycliffe Road

I: Yeah ok, I know the one

J: Yeah, just off the high street

I: Are you more excited about moving in there then

J: So much more excited, cos I live with two other girls here and two other girls and two others guys and the guys are really lazy, typical guys. So like, we had a bit of a disagreement with them about the kitchen and keeping it clean and it got to the point where we had to, not shout at them but just be like this is ridiculous, we cant live like this, so now its got to point like as soon as someone eats or something they wash up straight away because its all like ohhh god, so like its good now and its so much better than the other flat. But like living in a flat will be like your friends, like you obviously can't choose who you like with in first year which is the hard thing, that's something they should of done, like a questionnaires to put you in with people like you or you know, cos like they didn't really do that at all, I wish they had done that

I: No, they do make it, you kind of could end up with anyone

J: Exactly, I was unlucky with my first flat, yeah its alright

I: So six girls, next year

J: Yeah

I: Nice house?

J: Very nice actually, its like two houses, like detached off the road and its got like 4 rooms up in the loft so its all like eves, so a couple of them are quite small, I've got the smallest one, but they are all double beds, so they are all nice, and then like 3 on the main floor, like as we are all girls, we all had the same mind that we wanted it to be homely, and we're all clean so obviously well yeah, it will be so much nicer.

I: yeah, than living with boys, that is the thing with living with boys, actually the boys I am living with this year are quite clean, yeah Tim's a bit OCD clean

J: I could imagine that

(laugh)

I: Umm, so, where was I ok, So ummm did you bring anything specific from home to remind you, like you were saying your pictures were kinda your big thing obviously

J: Yeah my pictures obviously, I had to make sure they were printed out not really anything else, ummmm not really, only really essential stuff like my shoes, I love my shoes and makeup, basic essentials

I: And is there anything you've like left behind cos you didn't want to bring with you?

J: ooo, that's a tricky one, umm I guess I have a few soft toys that I have like at home on my bed that I don't have here, cos you know, I'm grown up now. I like, they're just like nice reminders of childhood and everything and had them for ages but...

I: And you didn't bring them because

J: Errr (Laugh)

I: Felt you had to grow up a little bit

J: Well yeah, and you know didn't go with the look of my room and (laugh), no they just belong at home, I'll never take them anywhere especially cos my one toy that I had since child birth you know as a kid I had him by my side all the time, and I took him on holiday with me and I lost him in Austria and my parents put lost posters signs up on all the streets, I was so heartbroken so after that I never brought my closest toys anywhere with me cos I was so terrified of losing them so yeah, I leave them at home.

I: And when you went back at Christmas did you take anything home with you, or bring anything more back, like that's kind of the time when you're like I don't actually need this and take a load back.

J: I guess I brought, I did bring some more pictures back ummm and I like, like clothes, like some I brought down and I thought I would wear them but I haven't and I took them back, I kind of renew my wardrobe every term with thinks that I will wear and I wont wear ummm

I: Do you like to share your clothes and things like that with others or are you much more like these are my things

J: Umm, I generally only always wear my own clothes, I don't know why I just kinda. I'm not really fuss when it comes to my clothes, its just I wear quite plain clothes, like nothing that will really stand out, just plain colours or jumpers or whatever so if I like something I will maybe borrow it off friends but then Ill go buy it for myself the next day cos I actually like it and Ill actually wear it so, yeah, I know all the other girls all go into each others rooms and wear different clothes and share them for nights outs, yeah I just don't really, I don't know why, its weird.

I: No, no its fair enough, its funny speaking to different people cos there is, ummm Zoe my friend has never really borrowed anyone's clothes so no one really

borrowers hers, whereas Alba's room is just open and everyone just walks in and takes her jumpers and walks off

(Laugh)

J: Actually that's like Tilly and Jess, friends in the other flat, I am living with them next year. And they will just walk into each others day each day and will just get each others clothes and just go off... I just wouldn't do it, my clothes are my own, I dunno, with my sister actually I will share them, we have a rule we can use, wear each others clothes as long as they are not new as long as we have worn our own clothes the first time and they cant be shoes cos she's got like bunions (laugh) and large feet, I don't want her stretching them

I: So nice to your sister. You quite close with your sister then.

J: Yeah, we are now that I've come to uni actually since my gap year we've been close cos we kind of actually realized, especially her more than me, cos I've been busy where as she has just been at home, she's like oh my god I'm an only child so it's a huge difference for her, so we have gotten closer, cos like before we were, we were so similar that we'd fight all the time and then my mum would join in and fight with us and try and stop us and then she would be getting us angrier

I: What's the age difference between you too

J: 18months, so very close, well like 2 schools year apart

I: Yeah, when me and my sister grew up she use to hate me cos I was the little sister until I was like 18/19 when she was like I can be friends with you again cos you've grown up a little bit now

J: Yeah, since she's been to uni

I: Yeah, cos I was like, she is like 4 years older than me, so when she went to uni I was 14 and she was 18 and so I was that little kid and she was all growing up and trying to be different

J: Got to separate

I: Yeah Exactly, and I was like the annoying little sister who was like, HIII. But now we get on great cos she gone off and married,

J: Is she

I: Yeah, she got married last year... So you share with your sister more than anyone else

J: Clothes wise, yeah definitely, it is weird, its not like I don't like people sharing my clothes, its just scared they'll get dirty or ripped or torn or something like, and then there like I'm sorry and then you have to be like its ok

I: No, no its good to know...umm so next do you have anything in your room that know one knows about

J: Yess, (Laugh)

I: You don't have to share it if you don't want to

J: No its fine, it's a, well my dad also brought me a safe after being in that flat, cos my speakers were stolen on the first day as well

I: Seriously

J: Yeah, our flat got broken into, so that was another bad point, like didn't feel safe, so when my dad came back up to move flats, he was like jess we are getting you a safe, you need to keep your stuff safe, lie you've got your laptop here you don't want to lose cos you know, its not easy to break in, but its easy, like its possible so he brought me a safe up and he also brought me this thing from MI6 which is you plug it in to a wall socket, and it has like a little video camera on it and you cant, like it looks like an adapter for a phone, like a phone charger cos you just like plug it in but it records movement and sound

I: Wow

J: Its, its ridiculous, like I will show it to you later but its weird, cos like you can plug in one for a phone charger end and it will record with movement and sound, another one will record if you set a time on it, so you can set the time from 11pm to 6 am if you want it to or something and then its really clever, so yeah its got a little memory stick in it so you can like watch it back

I: Ooo

J: I know, so yeah, no one really knows about that, but like he brought that for me as like a security thing for when I'm out of the room, yeah, he's quite tight on his security if you can tell

(Laugh)

I: Protective dad

J: Yeah like very protective

I: But your like first one to leave the house as well like being the oldest as well

J: Yeah, oh god yeah, they get very emotional, they are very emotional parents, yeahh, like my dad, he's got quite like a tough exterior but he will cry at like mamma mia, or anything really soppy like that, yeah but like my parents are really protective, very.

I: But you still seem quite free and quite like willing to let you go at the same time.

J: Yeah, I mean like it helped with my gap year cos they had like no choice, I was in a different country to them so they, like I would be able to Skype with them like once a week or you know whatever, and so they could see that I was happy doing that so they kind of like oh ok, so now they are completely relaxed about me being at uni which will help for Katie as well cos obviously they have experienced me first, so yeah, they're alright...

I: So you've got a security camera... am I being watched now (laugh)... I like that though

J: Is quite scary to think though...

I: I guess to think about all the stuff you've been through already, ummm its quite nice to have something so you feel a little bit safer in your room, and I guess you feel and lot safer living with these girls than living next door

J: Yeah definitely, Ill leave my door open if I'm just popping out, but like there I wouldn't, like even when I went in my room I would lock it, I just didn't want to be around them, yeah so much nicer

I: Fair enough, so umm.... Lets go onto this, yes, lets go through the photos I asked you to put together, that's a good thing to do next

(move to computer where pictures are on)

I: Ok so I asked you to put some photos together that describe yourself and it was only really to think about how you think about yourself really so should we go from the first one then

J: (Picture 1) Ok so my first one is of a woman with backcombed crazy hair cos people like recognize me for my hair if we go out on a night out and we are looking for the pictures of our group they will always looks for my hair and then can find out group, so I dunoo, its quite unique

I: Do you like it?

J: I use to hate it when I was growing up, and it just got curlier and curlier and I didn't know what to do with it and it was ahh, I would like straighten it like every time Id wash it I would straighten it, and it got to like probably again on my gap year and all the guys were look jess just leave it down its nice it looks really cool, so I was like ok, so I slowly got more and more use to it and its so much easier now, yeah I duno I like it, it makes me different.

I: Its good its good, ok next one

J: (Picture 2) Ok Horses, I like when, from probably when I was like a little kid I just loved horses, and have always been one of those typical girls who wanted a horse,

and with my friends at school I would plan a little stable yard, with a horse. And then on my 15th Birthday, I remember I was going to bed and my parents were like, I had literally got into bed, and my parents were like Jess come downstairs and I was like what are you calling me downstairs for its like 10 o'clock and I was being all like I'm in bed. And they were like no no you want to see this and basically there was this, one of the girls in the yard in the same stables in the village as us had been with my parents to try out this horse and in the TV in the living room was this video of this chestnut horse that they had been to try out for me to have as my birthday present and I just burst out into tears and I was like are you kidding me, it was just like the best day ever so yeah since I was 15 I have had a horse, and then I got another one when I got like properly into it and it was registered BSGA so I got into it and then I had to sell him cos I went on my gap year and uni and it wasn't fair to keep him, but I've still got red

I: OK, is that your first one then?

J: Yeah my first one, yes, and he is more of a pet now, as he is like so easy to do and such like a polite horse, and we've got like 3 stables in our garden with a paddock and everything so its so easy to look after him, so he is very much a pet and we will never get rid of him, my parent wouldn't

I: And do you miss not being around him

J: Yes, Yes I do but he had this big tumor in his small intestines, so I cant ride him for another 5 moths, its already been a month or something and umm so I don't really miss him as much now cos I cant ride him so I know I'm not missing anything, just the mucking out which I don't mind not doing. Like yeah, I do love him, he is such a lovable horse, he is so cute.

I: Aww

J: (Picture 3) So yeah the next one is of sport and gym and everything, like I have to do sport like everyday or at least like 4 times a week, like riding I duno, like I played lacrosse at secondary school and at primary school I always did netball and rounders and tennis all the simple ones and yeah I've always been into the team sports and then I carried on lacrosse onto uni and then yeah took up rowing... I'm quite competitive and I feel, like sometimes going to the gym is like a bit hard, and I could think of so many better things to do, but even on my gap year all the other crew went to the gym so after work at 3 we would always be like ok lets go to the gym, I dunno it does have such a feel good factor after so like you can breath and feel so light, its real good

I: But you prefer doing it with other people

J: Oh yeah, I don't like doing it by myself cos I don't feel like I push myself as hard cos even if I am going with a friend, I'll help them and its like a feel good factor for me cos like I'm showing them different things to do, like someone to work out with, makes it easier

I: Yeah, makes it a lot easier.

J: (Picture 4) and then the one after, I've always been close to my family, not like I've really had a choice (laugh) but no its more like you know my parents me being the oldest child everything, I was a lot older for everything than all my friends were cos their parents were either a lot more relaxed about it or they were the younger child so I was quite late in doing everything but I've always been quite close to home, like especially my sister she was like one of those children that would even struggle on the one night sleep overs with all her friends, she would have to call up our parents and be brought back home at midnight, cos she couldn't bear to sleep away from home and that, I wasn't like that, I could manage a night away but yeah we're quite a close family and we fight a lot

I: But yeah the best of us do

J: Yeah (Picture 5) and then I've got a picture of the sun the sea the the palm trees cos we go on holiday lots and its something to look forward to, it kinda, like a lot of our holidays, we, like I said the place in France we have a lot of family friends out there, and at Christmas we just go away the four of us, like we went on a cruise two years ago, which is really nice. For my parents, I dunno, cos neither of them work it kinda gives them something to look forward to and to kinda organize and you know, just enjoy being away from the cold weather. My dad hates the cold (laugh)

I: And he chooses to live in the UK

J: Yeah, he has said this is his last year and next year, and Ill actually think he'll do this cos he's being saying it for years, but because Katie is still at school but next year we are both going to be at uni, he said he is going to move to Florida or something, yeah I know, he just hates the cold so much. He just gets depressed, so yeah, so next picture (Picture 6) is school and learning cos that's basically what I have been doing for like my whole life now and you know I just want to get the degree at the end of the day and hopefully go out and get a good job and like have a good life for myself, so obviously got to start that off with education.

I: Yeah

J: (Picture 7) and then I've got a picture of a girl and a boy hugging so for my boyfriend

I: Aww

J: And umm I duno, its going to sound really cheesy but it has kind of changed me in the sense fresher's go out four days a week but I don't really do that, but it could also be rowing but I always go round to his and just chill and watch movies and stuff, any day rather do that than go out I just feel its more comfortable and I just feel better for it.

I: Did you have a boyfriend before coming to uni at all

J: I had one and that was in my gap year and it didn't work out because we were both working on boats and it lasted for possibly like 2 months but it was because every other weekend we would get to see each other and that would be it and it would be meeting in the middle, cos we both worked in Italy but like at the other end, and we would like train into the middle and it was just really stupid, so like yeah, so that wasn't like a real boyfriend because we saw each other like every second week it was just like this isn't right so I called that one off and then yeah, so like we see each other every day so its quite lie, and you know like we haven't actually had a big fight yet ((laugh) like we have our little rows and our moments but no I really enjoy spending time together, its all good.

I: DO you think he has changed your uni experience quite a lot

J: Ummm, I think so cos he's like second year now he's got a lot more serious with it, so it makes me think, like if I speak to him and he's working oh maybe I should work too and I don't feel so so much that I should go out, and I don't think I need to go out so much like I've got my boyfriend and so I'm going to stay in and work, so I definitely say its had more of a positive effect on it, and he's like, I can always talk to him about anything and you know he's in Bournemouth and everything as well so yeah I trust him and everything.

I: Aww nice, sounds good. OK so the next one is about settling into your new surrounds and I guess at the first part was very...

J: Awful, Yeah

I: But I guess moving away from home, I guess the gap year helps a lot moving away from home, apart from the awful bit did it take long to settle in, like did it take a couple of months

J: Yeah definitely, completely like a new routine, like new faces, you don't really feel like yourself in the first month cos you have to adapt to how everyone else works and how everyone else like lives around you, yeah its, its you know its different. Like on the boats, when I worked on the boats it was a job to keep it clean, so everything was so immaculately clean and then coming here when people wont do their washing up for like a week, it was like oh my god what, this is horrible its just, I've calmed down on the cleaning but I still have to change my sheets every week, I'm a bit OCD like that

I: Yeah, but doing that every week for a year

J: yeah exactly like we had to change god knows how many beds a day

I: So like you were saying it was like a month before you felt you could be yourself again, do you think its quite hard, when your meeting new people to like fully relax in front of them and be yourself

J: I would say so, no matter what people say about first impressions don't count they definitely do cos like you know like, (Laugh) my first experience of meeting

Becca my flat mate, she is going to hate me for telling you this, but I have told her already so she knows. But it was like when I was in the other flat and so we were just across from each other, she came in to ours for pre drinks and it was school disco night and she was wearing like very slutty undone top, where you could see the bra and like a short skirt with a tie, and the glasses and the bunches and I was just like I looked at her and just thought she's going to be sleeping around and she's just like a typical fresher and like I told her this after I actually got to know her cos she couldn't be any different, she is the sweetest girl she is completely not like that at all, she really wants a boyfriend and like its just so funny, cos that's a serious thing its just like one of those moments where I took a massive first impression like complete but like everyone does it

I: Yeah like everyone does it like Alba said that when she first met me she thought I, I think she said she thought I was a bit of a bitch, because I came in, like I thought that when I got there I would wear something that would look nice cos it was the first day of arriving, and when I first got there she said she thought I was looking too nice to be at uni, and she was like who does she think she is (laugh) and now look at us, we are best friends. So it is quite easy to make first judgments

J: Yeah, oh yeah, you don't really realize your doing it, but that was a prime example that you completely do it

I: Yeah, cos you do it to other people it kind of makes you think what do they think of you

J: Yeah, and again my gap year, I was so much more comfortable with meeting people, like I new most people would be coming straight from secondary school so they haven't ever been away from home, or ever had the experience of having to be around people you have never met before like being on your own. So like I was a bit more confident than everyone else and like I would chat with everyone you know, it was easier for me like than everyone else I would say, I was like a bit nervous, like apprehensive driving up, but when I got here I was like ah ok, I can do this

I: And do you think like you can tell people who have and haven't had a gap year

J: Umm, I would generally say those people are more confident and they've got like they are more approachable... but yeah no like some of the guys in my seminar group were surprised they were surprised when I said I had had a gap year, cos they said I am really immature (laugh) so so, I guess I do mess about and things in our seminar and I am quite loud so they like forget like I was the year above them and everything but yeah I would say you are a bit more confident, towards the beginning but then everyone kinda levels out and those that are not so confident kinda become themselves and those that are just stay the same, yeah

S: So when you were like back for Christmas did you feel that you had kind of changed at all, cos I think for the first time when you go back for Christmas everyone comes back as well, and you are kind of like this is different, its weird to

be back here after living with people that are completely different for the past couple of months.

J: I definitely miss being at home, its just, especially when I plan a weekend trip home, in that week coming up to it I am literally counting down the days. Cos I get quite home sick when I start thinking about going home and I am like oh my gosh 3 days 2 days I'm just so desperate to go home, but this Christmas within a few days, oo actually what did we do, I literally got back home, I had like Jacob came back home with me for 3 days and then that day went off to Thailand and Australia so we didn't have, we don't really have Christmas at home that much and new year really, so its always like Christmas for us is more like a holiday away, which I look forward to even more than just being Christmas, yeah cos we have Christmas before we go away so we have an early one so umm yeah like it was not really as much as it was on my gap year cos I only had six days off cos it was quite restrictive on the holidays I could take and I only had two weeks in the whole 6 months I was on that boat to actually fly home, that was a real, I struggled with that, I'd count down a month before I'd come home, 3 weeks, 2 weeks so that was a lot harder cos I didn't really have much time at home and I really missed home, and then I would get home and I would be off again, bye... but then I was a lot more happier on the boat when I got home and its good to go home and relax.

S: Do you have a good group of friends at home then

J: Yeah generally cos I went to an all girls school, so I've got really close girl friends and then we have like the equivalent boys school but our year had the typical fallout and some girls and boys don't get on that well, like I get on with the guys, but the group of girls don't really want to see the group of guys and yeah the girls I love and I they will always be like my best friends and I can just be Skype on to them and talk to them about anything but its really hard to keep in contact with friends back home, like they've got there uni time table, and in the evenings we've got rowing and then I come home and I am tired and then all I want to have dinner and sleep or work, so it can be really hard to keep in touch, but you always know that they will always be there, its not an insulting thing that we don't always keep in contact, you just cant.

S: Yeah, I've noticed it between friends who haven't been and have been. Like the friends who have been understand that you are not trying to ignore them, its just a life you kinda of get lost, I find it difficult to speak to my mum, its so hard to try to keep up with everyone.

J: It is a struggle

S: But you go home and you catch up and it's absolutely fine

J: Yeah totally, and you have so many stories to catch up on, its crazy

S: So did most people go before you or did many have a gap year

J: Well our year was the start of the 9 grand rise thing, so if you went without a gap year it would be three but then with a gap year it was nine so me and two of my friends had a gap year but that was it really. One of them didn't even up going to university at all, she's ended up going, she's really clever and so she's got a job at Deloitte, in finance and all of that so she's living in London and like she has completely matured and just you could always see that in her, she is one of those that is very mature, apart from when you get alcohol inside her, (laugh) yeah... but yeah so everyone is different, its all good. We were talking about the other day, like saying do you think we will always be friends and go to each others weddings, and we were like you know what I reckon we will, I reckon no matter how shit at contact we are, they will always be in my contacts, like always be like a friend on Facebook at least.

S: Yeah, totally, like one of my friends, its still lie that, she is now living in London, but we use to go three months of uni, not talk to each other but get back first week home and just spend a good two nights out, go out get drunk

J: Yeah it is like nothing has ever changed

S: Exactly, and they are the friends that you will always have

J: Yeah, so we all quite like, you know that, we said that when we got back together, cos like this is weird cos we been away for so long but nothing has changed.

S: And it's the ones you go back and you are like I don't know what to say to you

J: Yeah, yeah you do really realize who your friends are, there are friends I thought I would speak to but it really does clearly divide the friends you actually want to have as friends and the friends who actually you were only friends cos you went to the same school as me. So it has makes that a lot easier.

S: So how would you say you have met most people then, out of your friends here, so like the people you are closest too

J: Umm, I would say the close people probably Becca and Tilly so they are in my marketing seminar, so like we see each other pretty much every day and you know we have lots of group work on marketing, we kinda tend to be in the same group and umm like the guys in our seminar. I don't like generally ring them up and want to hang out with them apart from Gino, he is so awesome, he is like your gay best friend, and you got to love him.. but yeah so the guys I wouldn't really ring up and ask do you wanna go out with them but they are cool in my seminar group. But I would say rowing, I like all the rowing people they are, its like good fun, yeah so its like through sports cos like lacrosse as well, I've met Caroline and Vicky, and Georgia and everyone, I've made some good friends out of that. And then umm Jodie just the flat above, and just from flats around and then the guys up there as well George and Lonz and Pete and everyone and yeah its generally like sport, the course and the flat,

S: Yeah, and who would you say you are closest too?

J: Ummm ooo, I'd say Jodie I could go on a night with and we'd have the best time ever but I would say Tilly I would hand out with in a day, its weird just different kind of, yeah... talking about friends here of course Jacob (laugh) obviously Jacob! Jacob would be my number one, don't tell him I said that (Laugh) no I was thinking like friends, obviously! He would be my number one!

S: No no, I do know what you mean out of your group of girl friends. But that's nice I think that you have like different kind of friends groups, like different people you do different things with.

J: Yeah definitely, it's nice to have all the different groups and just kind of, yeah

S: And do you think there is anything you have kind of picked up from people you have met so far, like habits or certain things, or have they picked up from you. Like your cleaning or...

J: So like Becca and I don't help each other out in terms of cleaning, because we both, like, we both like to be clean. Together we are like oh my god, the flat is not clean and we gang up and are like this is not cool and then, like they've got the habit, cos I always go the gym or I am doing things sporty so Tilly an Katie and Jess and Becca and Sam always think like every time we see you you are in your sports kit. You make me feel really bad, so like I definitely have had an effect on them like fitness wise cos like they signed up to the gym and they are all doing that, so yeah otherwise uummm, maybe like going to seminars, if Becca is not going one day I would not feel like going either, yeah you do kind of stick to groups... you don't really want to ever be alone.

S: Like is there any new things you have bought, like new music, that you've started listen to or you've seen something on someone and you like it, or do you think you are a much more, like do your own thing

J: Ummm, with fashion I love Tilly's sense of fashion, I love it but it would never suit someone like me, I could never see myself in it, and I wish I could, I dunno like my fashion sense is quite plain but I like to think it is quite stylish at times too but yeah umm new things, music, I'm not that big into music, I will listen to the charts music but I love Jacobs music actually, and so hell put it on my mine so I will just listen to his like if he finds something new then I will just listen to that over and over again. So I'm quite easy with the whole music thing I don't like, the whole loud house music or anything... Like Tilly I am living right next to her next year cos she know I love the chart music and stuff, like the Taylor Swift, and Tilly is like if you play that song or any of Taylor Swift any of One Direction any of the Wanted you are out she is so, she is quite like quirky in her music style and everything, and I am like oh god.

S: Yeah so last few questions now, nearly done.. umm so what are you hoping to do when you finish uni, what do you envisage yourself doing

J: I, I want to live in London for a bit whether that's in my placement year or at the end, I haven't really thought about what I actually want to do purely cos I don't know what side of marketing I want to get into, I know I enjoy marketing and I know I don't want to do the whole research side of marketing umm but I don't think I am at the stage where I need to choose yet, but yeah I dunno, I would like, to live in London at some point

S: So why London?

J: Cos it is like the centre of everything, like everything is going on there and you know you've got the whole night life, you've got the business side, just everything is on your doorstep. Like I was quite scared of it, before and the whole tubes and everything cos its quite hard to get around, and like when like I had had a work experience, in Windsor, and it was like the first time of getting the train and everything on my own and that was really quite scary to have to do in the first place but when you have to, like forced to do it, like its fine, what was I worried about.

S: Once you start getting use to London trains you'll be fine

J: Yeah exactly, and the tubes, on my god, but yeah like it is all very exciting, yeah I don't really know what I want to do yet, just something in marketing

S: You would hope so (Laugh) but maybe you will go and change your mind completely, you never know

J: Never know

S: I think that is it, thanks for your time. I f you have any questions just be in contact with me. Thank you very much.

Appendix G – Interview Transcript 2

20th February 2013

Name: Anna

Gender: Female

Age: 18

Course: Exercise Science

Accommodation: Halls – Lyme Regis

Length of Interview: 56:37 minutes

S: So can you tell me a bit about yourself, where you are from and your family and things like that

A: I am from Becks Hill, in East Sussex and umm Ive got 3 sisters and a brother and...

S: So what do you study

A: Exercise Science, but I am thinking of changing to Chiro

S: OK cool , why are you thinking of changing

A: Umm I don't know its just a better degree (laugh) exercise science isn't that great, I probably shouldn't say that

S: No No, its fine, why did you chose Exercise Science in the first place

A: Well I got a place to do Sports Therapy at Glosturshire, and then kind of just decided, I duno the course I cnagedmy mind on the course on the last minute and umm and so I found the course at Bournemouth whilst I was looking in case I didn't get it and on clearing day I rang up and asked them to accept me pretty much

S: Ok, so it was a very last minute decision

A: Yeah, like I had to ask Glostureshire to release me, before I could accept the offer

S: So why did you change your mind about Glostureshrie

A:I dunno, it was just small and I don't really know, I just didn't really like the look o fi t. I had been up there a few times and I was just, I like it but I wasn't like excited by it and like my dad works ther so I would of constantly been like living near my dad, I dunno I just didn't really like the idea of it.

S: And why Bournemouth instead.

A: I'd always liked Bournemouth, cos my Dad use to have a flat in Christchurch so I always use to come here when I was younger and then like a few of my fridns had a

plied to Bournemouth uni and it looked really good and I just found the course and the course looked really good so like yeah, it all kind of fitted together

S: So you had a few friends here already,

A: No in the end, none of them actually came (Laugh) the idea was there

S: Umm and you said you have three sisters, are you the oldest?

A: No second youngest

S: And have they all been to university as well

A: two of them have but the youngest hasn't

S: Ok, big family

A: I love it though, I wouldn't want to be in a small family

S: I always say that too

A: I want loads of kids (laugh)

S: You are quite close to your family then

A: Yeah, like not so close to my brother cos he lived in Lincoln for like 3 years but like my sisters I am really close to

S: Is your brother older,

A: Yeah, like he is 22, not 23, so I am not as close to him but my sisters I am close to

S: So did you come down to Bournemouth before you accepted it or first day,,,

A: No no, first day was the first day.

S: And were you worried at all about getting halls, cos

A: Yeah cos like apparently people didn't get a chance to apply to halls to clearing day so but I didn't know that so I put down here cos it was quite big and it looked quite nice and one of my sisters friends said choose Lyme over Purbeck cos its nicer, so I just did

S: So you just looked at it online

A: Yeah and Purbeck just looked just as nice as Lyme

S: Yeah they do look quite similar, and umm so your process of moving to Bournemouth, did it take you like a day or did it take like a week

A: We just did it in a day, yeah packed up everything and just did it in a day and uummm

S: Did you get anything new like did you go shopping

A: Just the kitchen stuff really, bit boring. Dint get ny nice new stiff just stuff for kitchen and stuff and then cam here and I had forgotten my duvet so had to go shopping, there was a lot of things when I got here that I realized I had forgotten, towel etc,

S: So did you know at all what it was going to look like before you got here or had you seen pictures online

A: Like I had only seen pictures literally, I couldn't really remember what Bournemouth was like cos I hadn't been here since I was quite a bit younger so I litterraly had no idea what it was

S: That's crazy

A: Yeah it was kind of just like jumping into it, but a lot of people had said they like it here, so I was just like ok, Im just going to go with it

S: SO just talk me through what happened on your first day

A: Ummm, they was a lot of tear, al ot of tear yeah. And then...

S: Who did you come down then

A: Just my mum, cos there wasn't really much room for anyone else, so I Came here and we got here really early we were in like the first moving in slots but we thought it would take like three hours to get it here and it only took like two, so we sat round here at like 8am in the morning cos we couldn't actually get in, and then we got up here and there was no one else in the flat, no one else really here . like no one else was moving in till later on in the day, so I was like great, un packed some stuff and then went to town and got what I was missing, went for lunch and went ot Asda, and then yeah my mum went and then I was litterraly like the only girl, like Emma didn't come tll about 7 oclock at night, so I was like ok this awful, sat in my room for half the day, like this is horrible and st and kept crying , like I want to go home, why did I do this. And them Emma cameand got on with her really well and then I didn't really want to go out cos I was like, cos I was quite upset when I first moved in and so Idont really want to go out but everyone else in the flat was just like yeah lets go out and so ended up going out and it was really good in the end cos that wherewe met all the other flats on the floor and we all went out together and yeah that was just kinda that.

S: So what did you think of the room when you first got here:

A: I thought it was quite nice actually, I was expecting it to be a lot smaller. and umm and I thought the bathroom was literally going to be like, I didn't think they were going to be very nice at all but they actually are quite nice ummm and like I dunno I wasn't really excited about the single, but I thought the room was quite nice, I like the fact that you can kinda, sort of just see the sea (laugh) sort of

S: And then did you put all your stuff up on the first day or..

A: No, no most of its only gone up recently, at the start I didn't really put much up at all cos I didn't really have much, I didn't really bring many photos down with me and stuff, I didn't really think about it. So when I went home the next time, I was like I need some photos but like Im so glad, I did the things the way I did it, but its jind of just been like a gradual process

S: Yeah its nice though

A: I only got those (Looking at canvas on wall) cos Katie made me, I didn't even want them, and she got a cupcake one and she doesn't even like cupcakes, so it was just a really bad idea, so they are only really up there as a joke more than I actually like them really cos they are a bit too small for the wall

S: Yeah they are a bit (Laugh) So with like all your frames and stuff did you have them from the start, or have they been acquired since you got here

A: No, that one I got given at the start cos my sister gave me that as a leaving present along with a few other things and then the others ones, that one came with me at the start and then the other ones like sort of brought up the next few times, try and make it a bit more your own little room, rather than just halls

S: So like was there things specifccaly you brought with you

A: Umm, my miinie mouse (laugh) ummm

S: How long have you had her

A: Since I was born

S: Aww

A: Thatskinda her in good condition

S: And does she get washed

A: No (laugh) she has been washed, by my mum forcing her to be, like there is a picture there of her in the washing machine and I am about four and I spent, sat there and watched the whole time, just like my dog use to rip her apart so like she she has been sewed up loads of times, I dunno apart from that not really, I didn't bring anything specifc, just my Minnie mouse.

S: And is it just like a, you have always had it

A: Yeah, pretty much

S: And new things were just like you duvet and stuff for kitchen

A: Yeah pretty muc

S: And when you went home for Christmas was there anything you took back

A: A lot of clothes, yeah al ot of clothes I was like I had not actually worn them and didn't really like them so I took those back, but didn't take much back with me, but I brought a lot back to uni, just small things like, I need this, I don't need this and that.

S: But more like functional kind of thinds

A: Yeah, kind of yeah. Like yeah, pretty much

S: And so what like lending things and stuff do you ind sharing things

A: Me and Emma share a lot, like quite often we just use each others stuff, like when we first came to uni my ghd had blown up so like, cos she doesn't really straighten her hair and so her straighteners stayed In here, and then I got my own so have eventually have given them back to her, but like we share quite a lot of stuff in the kitchen too, but not so much with the others. Like I wouldn't really like, with stuff in terms of my plates, we all just kinda keep opur own to our own, yeah food and stuff, cos like some people will always use stuff

S: We were always like that in our first year we all had our own stuff., its annoying when particular people use your stuff

A: Yeah one of the boys has had my plate for two weeks, and still waiting for it, and like the kitchen gets quite disgusting

S: So is it like you two girls and three boys

A: yeah, like the end one we don't really see much, like he just seems to keep himself to himself quite a lot with work and then one next door is just....

S: So do you think you have started to settle in a bit, even with the gross boys (laugh)

A: Yeah, yeah Ive kinda settled in a lot more, like at first itwasn kind of like, this is mine, this is yours. Where as now, if someone doesn't have a plate I can borrow one, and its goa lot more relaxed, especially from the first day... Like the thing with me is I don't get home sick at all, but when Im at home I don't like leaving, so its

like the leaving part that makes me upset, I just don't like saying goodbye, but the minute I'm back here I'm not bothered.... I can speak to my mum on the phone and it's fine and then when I'm at home I'm like I don't want to go back now, that's kind of what it is with me.

S: And have they come down at all yet?

A: No, they came down to drop me off and that it.

S: That pretty much similar to my family

A: They haven't, like my sisters have been like I'm going to come down and we can all go out and it just hasn't happened and they were like we will come back down for your birthday so I'm waiting to see if that actually happens

S: Umm, is there anything you have in your room that you prefer not share with other people

A: Ummmm, I don't really know, not really, there is nothing in here if someone came in I wouldn't be like, don't touch that, no there is nothing in here like that. There is nothing that I would think of really

S: Do you all leave your doors open and stuff.

A: Yeah, but if I go out I don't and like in the flat opposite they just come and vandalise your room which they don't in here but my friend Grace if she leaves her room open, like this one time, they hung all her bras up cross her room and like they just do everything, turn everything upside down, steal the mattress, so if I know they're coming round I'll lock it, but other than that no, will just leave it open the whole time and like if I wanted something from someone else's room I would just go and get it, so I don't care if someone wants to come in here and grab something

S: Nice to not have to think about that, like the other flat

A: Yeah like that is what they do in the room opposite, if they go into the kitchen, they lock their door,

S: Wow that's crazy, yeah I can remember one of my other friends they all had food cupboards and they all had lock on them

A: Yeah I've never locked my food cupboard, I locked it when I went home once, and like they had loads of friends coming, like literally like 20 of them and they taken some of Adam's food a few days before and, I think that was like the only time, I don't really know which key it is to lock it now, and I don't have enough food in there that anyone would want to steal, laugh.

S: It's the things that are left over now like tins of beans and pasta. Ummm like is there anything that you still want to buy for your room or clothes or music

A: Umm, like music Ive got my laptop and ipod so not really, yeah theres clothes that I want, like I don't really have many clothes so I would quite like some new clothes ummm in terms of the actual room, I dunno, I would quite like some lights or something, just cos its kinda just like it's the lights on or the lights off, you cant have it mid, like you cant really make it cosy in here, umm other than that. Im quite boring with this room like I don't really, like its not really like my room at home if that's makes sense, like a home its like properly this is my room, where as here it's a bit more like its just not, I would like to put more frame and actual photos like I ve got loads at home I just haven't filled because I haven't bothered and no apart from that not really.

S: And umm so what hobbies do you do in your spare time

A: Rowing, literally that is it, umm what else do I do I go to town and go shopping and rowing takes up a lots of time, that is literally all I do

S: And did you do that before coming to university

A: Yeah

S: and then joined as soon as you got here

A: Yeah I always knew I was going to do it, no actually, that's a lie. I Initially said I wasn't going to row, and like I said I wasn't going to use all my time up rowing and then im maybe going to do socially and then take up another sport, which I haven't done, like lacrosse or something which didn't happen at all. I just ended up joining the rowing team and that was that. It doesn't happen socially. So just got here, went to the freshers fair and signed up. And then yeah since then

S: Aww cool, and umm how do you think its been settling in to Bournemouth, like the fact you were just like Im going to go that was it, you didn't really have much chance to think about the whole thing

A: Yeah, I didn't really, I kind of settled in, cos like em made it quite easy, Im one of those people who when I don't know people Im quite shy, I kind of keep myself to myself, but when you do know them Im the complete opposite, Im really loud and I won't shut up, like Im really annoying and ems kind got that now, but she made it quite easy cos I felt I was going to come in and sit down and be shy and be like hey im Annabel, and my mum was like don't do that whatever you do, just chuck yourself out there so I did that and em was really talkative which made it really easy and she had spoken to the girl in the flat opposite who is now one of my really close friends on facebook before so they kinda knew each other so got talking to, so that made settling in quite easy and then when we had our first induction for the course that was like I had the same thing, like I felt it was going to be horrible, cos I don't really like things like that but I met Katie, from rowing and shes on my course and she was like the first person I met and shes quite similar, we were talking about it yesterday about how we sort of went towards each other cos she looked kinda normal, I ve got some quite weird looking people on my course aso I

went towards her as being normal um and she ended up being a complete weirdo (laugh) ended up being sick everywhere on the first day I met her, she ran out and was just sick her all over the floor, first day I met her cos she was so hungover ummm and it sorted ended up the next day, oh I recognize her, ill go speak to her. And Katie is quite loud, and so she kind of got her quite out there with everyone else straight away, So I was like ok Ill just go along with this, yeah it made it a bit easier.

S: So do you think first impressions are important, whe coming to uni?

A: Ummm, yeah... I dunno its difficult, there was people I knew straight away that I didn't like but there are some people on my course that at first I was like I don't think I would get on with you and that first few weeks we would be like they are so annoying and then now we get on with them quite well so idunno like yeah. I don't if Im that great at judging people, I tihkn it does make quite a big impression cos there are some people I met like straight away who in the flats, that were a bit kinda of like idiots when we first met them and like I don't patrticularly still don't really like them that much. But I dunoo if em wasn't really talkative on that first day it probably would of made it a bit harder, so I guess that kind of left an impression on me, cos my mum was like straight away oh she seems nice but like

S: Like its true, alba was in my flat from the first year, and when she first met me she was a bit unsure and now are great friends, but I think I remember being like I need to make a good impression, where as she was a lot more rexed about it.

A: No like I was the same. I wanted to make a good impression with everyone, you do feel you need to fit into this new world

S: And I guess you came straight from school, to uni you didn't really have break from it all

A: Yeah and the school I was at as well was umm it was tiny, umm like I knew everyone in the whole school and so it went from being something so small to like so big, and like I had beenat that same school since I was, I was there from the age of 2 to 18

S: Wow

A: Like in the senior school, the abbey, there was like 200 people and in the prep school there was 90 so yeah it was tiny and umm so like I went from knowing everyonr to knowing, and I kind, I ended up bing head girl, like everyone knew me, I kind of like ruled the school (laugh) and everything and so I was like really comfortable where I was and then was chucked somewhere I had never been, cos I had never really started anywhere new, cos I had always been in the same place and I never had been in the situation where I knew no one, in a situation where I had to go where I knew no one, if that makes sense cos I had never been somewhere new.

S: Yeah you kind of feel you are back at the bottom of the food chain again, cos your small in this new place..

A: Yeah and it was, but like it was so good. I was happy to get out at the same time cos I had been there so long

S: So like, is there quite a good group of friends from back home then

A: Umm yeah like quite a good group, but like some of my close friends left in year 12 because they didn't really know what they were doing, with A levels and stuff so like a couple of them went for gap years and stuff early but like kinda how it was like back home I had 3 or 4 close girl friends and the rest were all guys, like because the girls in our class were very up themselves and quite like bitchy and I don't really get on with that, like I do but it's more my close friends back home are like guys so it's not quite the same umm. So like I've got a small close girl group which I'm friends with which when we see each other is really good and then I've got people from rowing back home who I am really good friends with but like in terms of like my really close friends it's more like boys but yeah

S: So have they all gone off to uni as well

A: Yeah, I think there is just one that didn't,

S: And how was it going back home after uni, do you think they've changed at all or

A: I dunno, it all seems the same when you come back together, but it's like really strange like my closest friend back, like my closest girlfriend, I always see her on twitter. All me and her, and I'm like no she's my friend, no it is good. When we see each other again it's just really normal, not like, no one has really changed that much, but it's interesting to see how much people have grown up, like a lot, like some people so much. A lot of my friends, I dunno were quite depended on their parents and like now they are just like the complete opposite which is good.

S: Do you think you have changed at all then

A: Ummm, I've become tidier, like I used to be disgustingly messy my room, there was points when you couldn't even see the floor, and it's strange cos here, I hate my room being messy like it will stay like this most of the time where if I go out and stuff it gets messy but then I tidy it again, and my washing up I'll do it there and then and that's it. Like I'll eat wash up and that's it, whereas at home even now if I go back home, I dunno, like I help a lot more when I go back yeah I've become more helpful ummm but like my room stays, like it's weird I'm different here to how I am at home and I don't know what it is, I don't know if it's cos it's my own thing, I'm kinda paying for this, whereas at home, like this is more mine, whereas back home it's kinda of just been there. Kinda of, I don't know if I've changed that much apart from that like I talk to my mum a lot more now... like if I go back, I'll have a lot more, I dunno, I would talk to her a lot more than I would because I don't see her as much, and like we are kind of like closer friends, I think that makes sense in a weird way, and like me and my sisters get on so much more, cos we are not

always together, Like one of my sisters has just moved to London and so when we all see each other its really good and the other one lives with her husband down the road from me like when I see her now we are like really good friends if you know what I mean, where as before it was just like I am going to pop round to see Beth, its like nothing special, whereas now when like I go home, she like when are you coming over and she gets really excited to see me, so like its good in that way Ive become a lot closer to some people and stuff.

S: It is weird how distancedoes that a bit, like I feel, like me and my sister there is like 4 years between us. And till like, when I was like 14 I was the annoying sister and she was like the cool kid growing up and then bythe I got to 16/17 that was when we started to become like really closefriends, as I was growing up, bring more maturee and stuff, and then would be tellingher all the stuff from uni and like since then we have always got on soo soo mwekk

A: Yeah like I get on with my sisters a lot more now, more like I dunno I didn't like drinking in front of them if that's makes sense, like my two older sisters were like, have always been so close to each other, umm and then me and my younger sisters are more like the close ones umm and my younger sister is like 17 now so she is like, like she was always, when I first was like ooo alchonl she was too long and my older sisters would always be getting drunk together and they would be like come and get drunk with us, and I would be like I don't drink when I quite, like secretly I did, like whereas now I love going out with them and stuff ummm which is like reallydifferent, cos like before (laugh)

S: So strange isn't, there is just little things that change. So do you think its turned out how you thought it was going to, like you have an image of what it is going to be like

A: No, like yeah pretty much, pretty much what I expected, I don't have to do much work and umm I knew I would go out quite a lot which I do, so it is kinda what I expected ummm what didn't I really expect.... No I don't really know. It is slightly different to how I thought, like just how you imagine uni to be and ummm but on the whole cos both my sisters have been to uni and like my brother i had kind seen what it was like to live in there side like I had seen in there halls and seen what it was actually like, the only thing I didn't really kind of expect was the money thing, like I dunno, I didn't think it would be this... like last term I had loads of money where as this term cos our rent has gone up I haven't had as much and so like I thought when I first came, I would be like I had no money all the time but I sort of budgeted but then I did it so that I didn't spend when I just should of, been like I don't want to spend that, and then now Ive become a lot more that I don't really care, with my whole budget thing but no I didn't think, I thought money would be such an issue, especially with the first term cos my sisters have always been like Ive got no money at uni and I was like Ive got loads what are you on about and now Itsort of hit me that I don't have any

S: it is really hard, trying to still do everything and go out, Ill just go anyway, hopefully my card will work, we shall see. So, How was it to go for Christmas, was

it nice to get a break from it all or was it weird to just leave... its strange cos its like 3 months and then see you guys in a month

A: yeah, yeah, yeah. Emma got quite upset actually like cos she walked me to the train station and I went a few days before anyone else cos I was going to Centreparcs, but she had work and stuff so she said a bit longer and she walked me to the station and she was like bye but got really upset about it, kinda like, and I was like Im going home I cant wait and I love going home and I dunno,. It was good to go home, but then the whole coming back thing, cos I had been at home so long it felt like starting uni again in a way, like oh my gosh, im so use to being at home now, yeah ive got to come back and like packing up here this room cos I took quite a lot back with me like it seemed really empty again, and then when I came back the room was a lot more empty so everything, it was just like this is really weird but that was good to go back but it was just like at the same time I spoke to emma quite a lot of Christmas but not that much and so it was really strange, almost like, really weird yeah. I don't quite know how to explain it.

S: Yeah I get it, you basically live in each others pockets and like everyday, especially with rowing and then....

A: Yeah, it went from seeing each all the time to not even talking, well we did talk but just not that much, just not as much as we would here. And the same with Grace, and it was quite strange you get use to having your friends back home again and yeah you almost forget about uni, that's how I saw it, you almost forget you have to go back to uni, kind of thing, you kind go back into your old life, old role back at home.. and like especially cos I didnt have any work over Christmas cos, we had an exam like just before Christmas so I did nothing to do with uni, all over Christmas, the only thing that could partly of been to do with uni would be like 3 rowing sessions maybe and that is like the closest I could connect to being at uni and things

S: So now about people you have met, you've talked about em quite a lot but how have you met people mostly, like in halls or on your course, ummm or through rowing or overlapping a bit

A: Yeah kinda of, I met a lot of people on this floor cos in the first few days everyone was going around knocking kind of thing and met people and then people from my course a lot of them live in Lyme, or like a few of them, so like if we ever need to do work together or whatever we will go up there and met their flat mates and then kind of like one of emmas coursemates Im quite good friends with now and going out with her tonight so like and then from umm like uni, I met like Katie and then our course is quite small, there is 25 30 of us on our course so its quite small so you kind of know everyone and umm and then ive met like, cos im quite good friends with Katie, I met her flatmates from being there, I kind of go and see all her flatmates and be like heyy and stuff and then like both emma and Katie were like are you joining any sports and I was like oh yeah Im going to do rowing and they were like oh that sounds good and then they were like we'll come along so like its funny how you get into things like that and so I kind of dragged them along to that and then yeah there is all the rowing people and now like its weird

cos at first youll go out and there would be so many people you didn't know whereas now, Ill go out on a Wednesday with like 5 people and then end up spending time with loads of random people its really weird but yeah, like people I don't even know that well like end up coming up to me and Im like oh hey, like Nucle, Adams flatmate, Like I was in the toilet last Wednesday with emma, and she was just there and out of no where she comes up and hugs and Ooo you are from rowing and I was like oh hey, im not actually too sure who you are and like it was really weird, and then she just came and danced with me and emma it was really strange, so like yeah it is quite weird how you get to know people... and then there is just connection through people

S: Do you think there is any habits that you have picked up already from people, like Emma, or anything you have started to do differently, or you've stayed pretty much the same.

A: I haven't picked up that much myself but I know other people have picked up stuff from me, if that makes sense...

S: Yeah go for it

A: Like Emma, obviously is from Birmingham but obviously when she is around us she talks a lot more southern, she has changed her accent to sort of fit in, and like just little things, how I speak for example. Like I would say oh Emma and I did this, and when she first heard me say and I she cracked up and found it hilarious. Like if she ever said that in Birmingham she was like I would get beaten up, ahhh ok whatever, and now she says it all the time. Like Ive noticed people pick things up from other people. I haven't particularly picked up anything from anyone else kind of thing, like. I dunno not really no.

S: Ummm, and then next year who are you planning on moving in with

A: Umm there is Emma, then there is Grace, who is from a flat over there and another girl called Pam from a flat over there and then another girl called Jeeves, all from halls but like Jeeves... we don't get on with so well, no, I originally said I didn't want to live with her, full stop, I know it sounds really mean but I just didn't, and when we were like choosing our flat Pam was really over the top with, you'll be sitting trying to watch a film and she'll just come in screaming and like she is flat mates with Grace and she could be chilling in her and then Pam will just come in and be really annoying and I don't think I can handle that but its weird at home, I always do that to my sister and they do it to and its fine but like when we first looked, we would not want to live with her and then the people who said ok we are going to live with you ended up, one of them not going and leaving uni and one of them was Katie but two of the people flat mates dropped out and she felt bad leaving them and so we ended up after telling them they we couldn't live with them, it was really awkward and then said yeah we do actually have two spaces and you can live us. Pam is actually really happy to be living with her now but Jeeves Ive seen her three times after being out for Christmas ummm cos she is always with guys, she keeps, like there is one guy she is seeing quite a lot but other than that she is just with random guys the whole time and we like never see her, and she was

a nightmare trying to get her paperwork in and stuff so like im not particularly looking forward to living with her other than that it should be good.

S: And then you said earlier you are looking at changing your course, so is it something you can carry on with or do you have to start again

A: I Have to start again, cos I though hopefully some of the modules would overlap, cos some of things we do we do at the chiropractic college but you don't and you have to start completely again, for like 5 years. So yeah I know, that's the thing that is holding me back, and that's what I am not sure about, the time. Like do I really want to spend 5 more years, cos it will be 6 years in total at uni and like umm ive got an interview for it, I applied for it and stuff and got an interview next week at some point and umm ive got to see how that goes and then I Will have to properly think it through and decide whether it is actually what I want to do cos like the reson I want to do it you kind of see what the chiros actually do and like it is kinda what I wanted to specialize in anyway but that's it, you can specialize straight away but then at the same time I ve got to think that's one aspect of chiro, and would I enjoy therest of it, and is it worth me spending 5 years of my life going there and doing it, it is a really long time.

S: I guess your other one was just a three year course then?

A: Yeah, like my sister has got a place at Bournemouth and I think she is going to put it as her insurance but like cos I think she wants to go somewhere in London but she would graduate before me and shes not starting uin next year cos she is in upper 6 now but she is taking a year out cos she is a year above herself, she is only 17 rather than 18. SO she would start uni still 17 which she doesn't want to do so she is taking a year out but she would take a year out and still graduate before me which Im like and if she did like a 4 year course we would still graduate at the same time and I still find that so weird and like makes me realsie how long I would be at uni, but then yeah

S: It is difficult because when you are deciding on something like that you are kind of setting this is what I am doing for the next five years of ylife

A: Yeah, and especially cos Ive been really bad with changing, cos I frist came to do sports therary and then I changed to exercise scirence and now Im just thinking of changing again, so Ive just been relally indecisive with what I want to do, so I really need to properly think about it, cos I don't want to get two years down the line and be ike I really don't want to do this, and want to change again.

S: I guess its quite difficult when you choose quite last minute you didn't really know what you were going to do from the outset.

A: Yeag, cos like I love my course now, I do really enjoy it but I just don't know what I would do with it, there is nothing I would do with it, apartfrom like work in a sports centre or something

S: And I guess with Chrio you can actually see them..where it goes to

A: Cos like my sister, my older siter, did three years at Manchester met and then her third year was a placement year and then like my grandma died and she lives up near balckpool and ummm my sister just couldn't handle being there anymore cos in like the end of her third year she like on placement was based in Blackpool and she was like round the corner and it was just really hard for her, she just got really home sick and eas just like no uni is not for me so she moved to Canterbury which is fairly close to us and did another course for another two year and was like I really don't like this. And that whats worrie d and conscious that I am going to do the same, and just keep changing and then get nothing out of it. Cos she ended up stoppooing and she had done like 4 or 5 years of uni and got nothing out of it, kind of thing and I just don't want to do that,

S: Yeah, you're kind of here to dgo to the next place in someways. So I asked you to get some photos together, did you manage to collect them

A: Yeah Ive got some but they are really bad, I didn't know what to pick,

S: Its fine, they can be anything

A: Cos half my photos I am drunk in so didn't want to give any of those ones

S: Anything is fine,Ok

A: Ok (Photo 1) I chose this one cos Ive been to Kenya twice now umm and I really like it there and I want to keep going back now

S: Do you go with like,,,

A: I went with my previous school, yeah I went both times with them and I dunno like I justI don't really know how to explain it but Kenya kinda means a lot to me, yeah if that makes sense. First time my dad just paid for me and I wnet and that was that, and the second time I was told that I cant really go my dad wasn't really going to pay for me again and he was paying for my sister cos she hadn't been cos my sister went the same time as me but he wasn't going to pay for me si fi I wanted to go again, I had to earn it myself, So I worked really hard and I earned just unfder two grand to go, and well Isay that he paid a bit (laugh) Ibut I kinda proved that I wanted to go and like I duno it does mean quite a lot to me when we, we had to do so much fundraising for it and a lot of people didn't really do anything, and I had to drive the whole thing and like I dunno,

S: It cools, so you went there for a couple of weeks and how many of you go from your school

A: Ummm about 30 35 of us so like the second time like 15 20, so the second time was smaller

S: SO what is it, like working with a little village

A: Umm... it is kinda of like Masai vilaages in the middle of no where like no town anywhere near but we built like a school each time, like the had like a tin shed thing and then we had to build the school and then like we got to go intot their villages and stuff so yeah it was quite cool

S: its kinda like a you kind of think you are doing your little bit, its quite like an independent thing

A: Yeah, and it was fun aswelll cos it was like quite interesting, and like in this pictureive got blonde curly hair and they don't see people like that and its really strange, they just find it really interesting and its just rwally weird but no its was really good

S: Great

A: Ok this one is just my family (Photo 2) like they obviously mean a lot to me, so it was my sister who got maariend and that my other sister and then my brother and other sisters. And I m like very different from the rest of my family if that makes sense I don't really look like them, they all look very similar and then those two at points can look really similar and my brother has got really dark hair and then they've all got brown hair and brown eyes and then ive got blue eyes and vefreclkes so like im the odd one out, I sue to get called adopted and stuff (laugh) postmans daughter and stuff like im kinda out of no where.

S: Ok nice, and next one

A: (Photo 3) umm I don't really know what this one means,

S: Who are they?

A: Umm this is like one of my closest friends from 6th form and then that's my sisters best friend who is gay but I am really good friends with him but that wa just at a party in the summer and things like just spent quite a lot of the summer like that, everyone had out door parties in fields and stuff and it was like, nice

S: It was just like before coming to uni you just have a that last bit of freedom

A: (Photo 4) that one is rowing, just thought I do a lot of it and yeah, it takes up so much of my time and everything, and look qith costal boats they are the other way round

A: (Photo 5) Next one is a bungee jump just thought like ooo I love doing stuff like that, a bit crazy stuff

S: Whaere di you do it?

A: Ummm it was like a mobile bungee jump so it was like, the first one broke so we had to stand around for 3 hours whilst they got a new one

S: What? Was someone on it when it broke

A: No no noluckily, they did a test run and it didn't work and we were like oh god

S: And you still did it

A: Yeah but the worst thing was my two sisters didn't want to do and I had forced them into doing it cos we were doing the bungee jump to raise money for our boat house and umm I was like come on guys I don't want to do it on my own and they were like yeah sure, and then when I t broke they freaked out, but they did it in the end but both got whip lash from it and I came out absolutely fine, and I felt so bad

S: I still don't know if I can do it

A: Aww it was sooo good, kind of like I love doing it, kind of like an adrelaine junkie sometimes, I have not really done anything else like that yet but I want to.

S: Yeah see I could do a parachute jump but I couldn't do a bungee jump I don't know why, ithink that should be scarier, I think it just someone has got hold of me and is pushing me outside the plane, so Im going to have to do it,

A: Yeah, I dunno I want to do one of those but the thing that scares me about that is that the parachute, wont come out

S: Your on a rope?

A: (laugh) But like it is a big rope and there is a crash mat underneath , but no yeah.

S: So what is next on the adrenaline junkie list

A: Im not sure yet, I duno there is nothing that has really come up but If something did Iwould be like sure think, I ll give it a go, like this, I didn't think I would do a bungee jump until it came up and I was like yeah sure I will give it a go

S: SO cool

A: (Photo 5) yeah so these are all my friends from back home

S: All the boys

A: Yeah pretty much and one of close friends there is three or fiour of us and the like the good thing about boys is theat you can just have a laugh and they just don't judge you kind of thing

S:And I guess in 6th form there is always a bunch of girls who are like, girl just seems to have this... boys are just so much more down to earth

A: Like there was like boarding in our 6th form and so loads of them were like foreign so there wasn't many actual English people and so you were so like limited who you could chose to be friends with and sort of like the boys just were always a lot nicer than the girls

S: DO you think its strange how you have now come to uni and now you are going to be living with all girls and no boys after that.

A: No, Im use to living with girls back home of course, cos like my dad doesn't live with us like he has his own and house and my brother stayed up in Lincoln for a few year so it was all girls and my brother was like the odd one out, like its always been, even when we were really really young we use to dress up and be the spice girls but my youngest sister was too young so like my god sister was one of them and then cos I was the youngest at that point I was always baby and my brother always got dragged into it and so there is photos all round the house of him dressed up as a girl so it has always been loads of girls... so now he is livng back home again cos hes moved down south with hisgirlfirdnd cos they wanted to start over again and they haven't got round to getting a house again yet and so it is literally my brother again and hes got his girlfriend adnt heyve got a baby girl and so it is allgirls and hi, again but yeah... So this one is just family again (Photo 6) that's my niece ummm who like she is quite a bit older now, like 1 and a half/2ish ummm but like kinda like this, when I went home for chrstmas I looked after her a lot cos her mum was working and my borther was working and because my mum is changing job at the moment she was going for interviews and stuff so Iwas looking after the whole time coes that make sense, so it was almost like umm and like but like I don't know how to explain this but we would never see her before, once or twice a year in her first year, so I had only seen her like 3 times within the first year and then now we get to see her all the time so she is much more there

S: So your brother was living up north

A: Yeah he was in Lincoln, and now hes down south, Yeah its good cos all my other cousins are, like we never see cos they are up north, like north wales or Blackpool

S: Did you use to live up north then

A: No, my mum is actually from Blackpool and my dad is from north wales ummm and they were going to move up when we were in year 9 but we didn't cos I didn't want to... lets not go into that (Laugh) I turned into a bit of a bitch, like Im not moving! Put me into boarding school, I would rather board at the abbey than move up to Blackpool, I was so horrible, I was actually horrible and like I put the biggest strop on I would rather not live with you guys than live in Blackpool, I d rather board atschool.

S: So you ended up styng cos of you

A: Yeah, but my sisters thanked me for it now, cos they were like yeah we will go up but now they think I would of hated to move up to Blackppool, Im so glad we

live here so kibnda in the long run it is quite good, so yeah just at the time it was a bit horrible.

S: Aww

A: This one is just uni (Photo7) These are all my new group of friends and I don't really know what to say about it, just uni, and kinda like what it is like now

A: (photo8) This is my boyfriend, yeah.

S: How long have you been together

A: About a year now

S: And what is he doing?

A: He is at Brookes uni, oxford brookes

S: Ok not too far then

A: No not too far, I don't really see him that much

S: No? do you mind

A: Ummm yeah and no it would be good to see him more but then its good to kind of have my space, like ive been to see him once, which was really horrible for like one day last term like that's just because I am a lot busier, like he does nothing at uni umm and he has come down here quite a few times

S: Yeah I guess with rowing it takes over your weekends quite a bit, making it harder, is he first year aswell?

A: Yeah, so that is in tenerfire. (Photo 9) o that's the girlies my sisters,

S: That is so cute, you all have so similar faces

A: Like in this picture we do look quite similar but in person I look nothing like them

S: Its really weird I guess there is two girls two boys, so all girls is really nice

A: (Photos 10) these are just my friends from back home, I chose this one cos it was like abroad and I travel quite a lot and I like travelling and umm and this one I only chose, it's a horrible photos (photo 11) don't really look at it but that was taken towards the end of the abbey so like the abbey was like a big part of me, cos I was kind of there

S: You kind of grew up in it

A: Yeah and like the head people, that was the end

S: You look so smart there don't you

A: But yeah that's its

S: Fab, think that is it. Thanks for your time.

Appendix H – Interview Transcript 3

5th March 2013

Name: Emily

Gender: Female

Age: 19

Course: Sports Psychology and Coaching

Accommodation: Unilet- Ensbury Park

Length of interview: 32:40 minutes

S: Ok, so first question can you just tell me a bit about yourself, where your from, what kind of family, and background and hobbies and things like that

E: Ummm, I'm from Windsor, I live with my mum and younger brother and younger sister, err have a part time job err sporting background I suppose ummm yeah that's about it really.

S: Umm and what are you studing this year?

E: Sports Psychology and Coaching

S: Ok, and are you enjoying it?

E: Yeah (laugh)

S: And di you take a gap year before coming to uni

E: No

S: No, just came straight here. So how did you decide on choosing Bournemouth?

E: Umm mainly the beach, I wanted to go to somewhere to uni by the beach and then, I looked at universities by the beach that did sports courses and then the psychology bit was a bit of a bonus because I already did psychology, and then I came here and this is the only one I came to, and then that was it

S: So why, Why the beach

E: I dunno I just wanted to live by the beach, and so I duno its just like a holiday isn't it, all year round, so yeah

S: And, so you had done things sport related at school as well then

E: Yeah, well A-level PE and A-level Psychology as well

S: Ok cool, so when you were choosing Bournemouth did you just look online or

E: Yeah, umm on UCAS, yey

S: And do you know anyone else that comes here at all, like before you came

E: Err there was one guy from my 6th form, but I wouldn't say I really know him, just know of him

S: Ok, so it was just mainly location rather ...

E: Yep

S: And did you come and look at here before you came

E: We came down and we looked in the sports hall... and then went to the beach

S: So you literally just looked at the sports hall, so who did you come down with?

E: Umm my dad and his girlfriend

S: OK, what did you think of the place, did you like the look of the uni or did you just...

E: Yeah, I'd been to Reading on like a day visit with my school and then I thought it was a bit rubbish looking ermm and it had a nicer feel here umm but my mind was already made up cos id already been here to an open day so I was just coming to double-check

S: So you didn't look at any of the halls or anything when you were down

E: No

S: And then straight to the beach

E: Yep

S: And then fell in love

E: Yeah well I'd holiday here since I was little, like most years, yeah so I already knew it quite well

S: Cool, so when did you find out that you had got in

E: On results day, yep

S: Ok, and, when did you find out whether you were moving into halls or a unilet, was that on the same day

E: No it wasn't, I was at work, it was a few days later, and I got an email

S: And you got put in a unilet

E: Yeahhh

S: And how did you feel about that?

E: Not good, not good at all

S: Why did you feel like that

E: Umm, just like umm cos it wasn't near the town it was, like I knew there wouldn't be like a whole row of unilets, so you would be with only the people you live with, errrr, just not near where everything is going on, yeah I wanted the halls for the first year sort of thing cos I just thought I would be moving into a house after that

S: So you were a bit upset about it, but did you get to see where you were living at all before you came here

E: No, no just saw it on the day

S: And did you know who you were living with at all

E: Yeah, I did, there was a facebook group and I saw, I found the two boys on there umm but not Christie

S: You you kinda at least knew who you were living with, So you spoke to them a little bit

E: Yeah, I spoke to them online

S: And so before you came down here did you have a process of moving here, like how did you start packing up, like day before

E: Yeah, no like a couple of days before, I was quite last minute, very last minute

S: Did you know what you needed to bring and stuff

E: Errr, yeah I suppose to an extent, I think there was a list somewhere on ucas or somewhere or something like that of what to bring. I just pretty much took everything from my room, really. Yeah and then cutlery and stuff like that.

S: Did you buy anything new, or did you...

E: Ermm no, my nan brought me my duvet set, so she themed my room, yeah

S: Pink and purple

E: Yeah she went pink and purple thing

S: Is that her theme or is that more

E: Yeah that is definitely more her theme

S: umm, So just talk me through what happened on your first day

E: Ummm, what from moving

S: From leaving your house to arriving here

E: Umm, left the house early in the morning, actually it probably wasn't that early, I think it was 9 umm and then got down here very very quick actually, and then we went to uni to pick up the keys, and then came here, it was just with my mum, they was one guy already here and then the other one turned up and err then we went back down to unit p pick up something I had forgotten like a band, freshers band, wrist band and then err went to Asda, did and asda shop and then came back here, unpacked and then my mum went home and we went out, yeah.

S: Did you go out as a house then

E: Yeah we went out as a house

S: And what were your first impression of the house

E: The house, better than I was expecting, bugger than I expected, I liked the garden umm, nicer than I expected really

S: Wasn't so upset about the fact

E: No it wasn't as bad, wasn't as I pictured

S: And what about first impressions of people

E: Yeah, err well... one of housemates had a snake round his neck on his profile picture on facebook which I thought was a pest and so tooht he would bring it with him, which he didn't, but it wasn't a pet anyway ummm but he was really nice, the other one was really nice aswell and then Christie arrived quite late, that day and err, and we all got on well from the off really yeah, and the alchol helps with the first few hours, so everyone got quite drunk and it sort of was, there want any awkwardness, so that was good

S: So, I guessyou had only met the boys before on the facebook so

E: Yeah, spoken to them brienfly

S: But I guess it was nice to have another girl in the house as well

E: Yeah definitely, yeah half and half, nice even split

S: So, did you and your mum unpack your room together, or did you do it after she had left

E: Bits, but did most of it after she had left actually, over a few days yeah

S: And did you feel it made it a bit more homely

E: Yeah definitely, we moved stuff around a little bit, moved a bit of furniture, it was alright as it was but I just wanted to change it, umm but once you got your stuff in there it makes it look a little bit less empty, than when you first get in

S: So was there anything specific that you thought you needed to bring from home or was it just a

E: No literally, just everything, from home came here, on from another pretty much

S: And was there anything that you left behind

E: Yeah my dressing gown (Laugh) and a black cardigan

S: Were these these things you actually wanted then

E: Yeah, cos I realised about half way through that I had left them at home, I remember cos I text my mum that night saying can you send them, so yeah... oh and I forgot my bike that was quite a, that was a more of it just couldn't fit, and hadn't thought of an alternative to get it here at first

S: And did you purchase any new things

E: ummm, no I don't think so

S: Umm, ok, with things in your room would you say you were quite an open sharing person or are you more of a these are my things

E: Yeahh, no I'm open really I don't

S: Anyone can borrow anything

E: Yeah

S: Yeah Ok, so what are your favourite things in your room then

E: Umm, my stereo, hair straighteners, bed (Laugh)

S: Yes bed, is always an important thing in a room. Very retro stereo

E: Yeah, got a tape player and everything

S: I can remember trying to record things off the radio

E: I wouldn't know how to do that

S: And what about this

E: The notice board was already here, and then my mum put wrapping paper on it cos it was a bit shit looking and then I put photos on it about a week later, yeah

S: And are they mostly people from home

E: Yeah think they all are, I haven't updated them since Ive been there, yep... I need to update that

S: Its good to have pictures from home up on the wall. OK lets go through your pictures you have put together then. We will go through each one and you can explain why you chose it.... Ok we will start at the top

E: (Photo 1) That is my secondary school friends

S: And why did you choose it

E: Cos I was there for seven years and shaped my world, chose my options there and it kind of leads to where you end up later

S: Are most of your friends from secondary school

E: Yeah

S: Are they all gone off to uni as well

E: Ummm quite a few of them have, a few have taken gap years, a couple have gone into work, but yeah majority have gone to uni

S: And have you seen many of them since they've been

E: Yep

S: And are they enjoying it too

E: Yeah, yeah

S: Do you think any of them have changed at all since going to uni

E: Yeah one of them (laugh)

S: In a good way or a bad way

E: Slightly more promiscuous... Laugh

S: So was she quite different at school then

E: Yeah she had a boyfriend at school before she had gone to uni... spread her wings (laugh)

S: Nicely put, Do you think uni has changed you at all

E: Umm maybe I dunno its hard to tell, I think ill probably notice when I go home for the summer a bit more, like whether I ve changed a lot but I haven't been cold for a long enough period of time, like to realize whenther I have

S: Yeah, so how long did you go home for Christmas

E: two weeks

S: Err ok, very short

E: Yeah, but summer will be like 3 months

S: Yeah its quite weird isn't it

E: Yeah I can imagine, kind of settle back into that life

S: Yeah it's a big difference, Ok then next picture then

E: (photo 2) Ummm that's housemates now

S: There the four of you then

E: Yep

S: Would you say they are the people you are closest too so far at uni

E: Yeah obviously like living with them and seeing them a lot

S: Yeah its quite different, once living in house with them

E: Yeah I do see them a lot, and from halls its quite different, cos you can switch around a bit more yeah I guess there are other students on the street

S: Yeah have you met anyone else in a unilet

E: Well I found out the other day that Ollie lived the other day, umm there was another house that Christie knows someone from college who live round the corner from us, and from freshers week we have been very close to them, like switching pre-drinks between the two houses but sometimes I cant be bothered to walk there that much, it is about 15 minutes away

S: Do you think it has changed what you thought uni was going to be like, like has it turned out differently being in a uni let

E: Yeah, probably

S: Do you still wish you had ever been in halls

E: Err in ways, ermm just cos I think when I see my coursemates, like most of them are in halls and it would be nicer to live by them aswell ummm but then I don't like some of the things I don't like in outhouses, but when I think about halls the noise and stuff and all hours and the price is more expensive and

S: Yeah I guess I know with the noise and, fire alarms

E: And its further from uni, so bus everyday, I think pros and cons of both really

S: you don't hate it quite as much as when you were first told

E: Umm no no Im quite happy with it now

S: Cos it is really weird cos two of my friends were in unilet but cos we were in halls they would always come over to ours

E: Yeah yeah you do end up going anyway from like

S: And it never seemed to make a difference, once you got your group of friends, it doesn't make too much of a difference

E: No, no it doesn't

S: Ok so next one

E: OK (photo 3) this is my work

S: OK what do you do for your work then

E: Umm bungee trampolining, zorbing balls, climbing wall, crazy golf and I work in the café

S: Ok cool, where is that then

E: In Windsor

S: And how long have you done that for?

E: Umm my 3rd year now I think

S: And enjoy it?

E: Yeah its really good

S: Do you get to go on it as well

E: Yep, that's part of the reason

S: And ok cool, next one

E: Uni (photo 4) yep, the new step... yeah I... just now quite a large part of life, yep

S: OK

E: Bournemouth beach (photo 5) probably why I am at Bournemouth uni, err and holiday tere virtually ever year since as long as I can remember including this year which will be fun

S: Oh really, comin back down

E: Yeah my mum was like we are going to go to Bournemouth and I was like oh great

S: But then you get to enjoy Bournemouth in the summer as well then

E: Yeah, come back down for holiday

S: Back to uni for your holiday, so who do you usually come on holiday with then?

E: Umm mum brother and sisters and sometimes cousins and large group

S: Ok and are your brother and sister, older or younger

E: They are both younger

S: So you're the big sister

E: I am

S: And you are the first to leave home

E: Yep

S: And how was your mum with that

E: Not good, not good at all, no. She was just being the protective mother. She was an absolute wreck, yeah.

S: Aww

E: Yeah

S: But do you speak to her quite a lot

E: Yeah I speak to her a couple of times a week

S: Was it easier for you to leave than for her

E: Yeah, I think it was harder for me to leave watching her, how she was then I felt if she had been fine, that was what made it harder. But umm I think after a few weeks it was alright

S: I guess if you have never done a gap year you have never lived away

E: No, never lived away from home so it was a big jump, she cried when I went on holiday and then before that, so she cried when I went away for two weeks, so the whole moving out was never going to go well

S: She is doing quite well then

E: Yeah she is doing fine,

S: Its ok, its when the last one goes that's when she will...

E: Actually I think when the last one goes she will be quite happy

S: The first one always gets it worse, Yeah cos me and my brother were the youngest so when we went it was just see you later, byeeee. Go on, get out. Ok then next picture

E: This one (photo 6) that's rowing, ummm so took it up as a new sport

S: How did you choose it?

E: Christie signed up to it and convinced me to go too

S: There is always someone else to blame

E: Yep

S: And just enjoyed it or

E: Yeah I guess so, enjoyed, yes...

S: So what do you like about it then

E: I don't know, I can't answer that, I don't know... the people, its got good fitness and it apparently the summer season is nice so I am holding out for that, umm yeah

S: But you have enjoyed it

E: Yes

S: Have you always been quite sporty then

E: Yes

S: So what did you do before uni

E: Football

S: OK and didn't want to continue it or ...

E: Yep, didn't want to from the age of about 15

S: Just because, done it for ages or

E: Yeah I just didn't really enjoy it as much anymore, well the team I was with wasn't very competitive it was more of a social thing and then they folded and I couldn't find another one that was as chilled about it, it was a very competitive and I wasn't really in it for that, I just wasn't that into it

S: And now rowing. Ok next one,

E: that is my brother and sister (photo 7)

S: Aww, and how are they that you have left

E: They were both upset as well actually, yeah. There were tears from both of them, even my brother. Yep.

S: Look how impressed you are with that (laugh) So how old is your brother then

E: He is 16, and he cried. I know.

S: Are you all quite close then

E: Yeah very close, yeah

S: And do you go home often or not really?

E: Umm pretty often, I suppose.

S: Do you think moving away has made you closer in some respects

E: Err we were already quite close to be honest umm but I still text them both during the week and stuff so we are still close

S: Good. Ok this one

E: That is friends (Photo 8) from school in tenerfire

S: Nice, did you go on a big holiday before you came

E: Yeah

S: How many of you were there

E: 15, mmm

S: Bit wild

E: mmm

S: How many arguments then (Laugh)

E: Not that many between us

S: We did the same but went to Ibiza, and think there was two big argumenets one was because someone lost the key, and that was it

E: Yeah, its cos the tiredness builds up as well and people get stress

S: Yeah, its silly isn't it. So are these all friends from school then?

E: Err yeah and then a couple of peoples boyfriends or whatever

S: Cool, and then would you say they are the people you are closest to back home then

E: Yeah

S: Do you speak to them much when you are here or not really

E: Quite a few of them yeah, not ll of them but when I go back home I will see them anyway, that's what its like

S: Yeah don't talk to them for a couple of months and then see them again and its fine

E: Yeah

S: Ok this one

E: That is (photo 9) my cousins, yeah

S: And just close family still

E: Yeah, yeah

S: There is loads of you isn't there

E: Yeah there's 10 of us

S: And do they live close by then

E: Well two of them live in Italy but the rest all live very close by, so get to see them a lot

S: Yeah and the last picture

E: Is my old house (photo 10) but the one I've lived in for most of my life so far.

S: What as in house at home

E: Yep

S: Ah ok, do you miss it

E: No, not at all

S: But you still have your bedroom there I assume

E: Yeah well I share it with my sister, so when I am not there it is her room now and when I go back she clears the bed and I can sleep in it.

S: Aww bet she loves that now, having her own room. SO yeah back to the questions. Do you think you umm, how have you found settling in to your new surroundings, did it take a while or was it quite easy

E: Probably took a couple of weeks probably and then another couple of weeks about going to uni, on top of going out, cos obviously you don't actually go to uni for two weeks so it sort of like a holiday

S: Yeah it's really weird

E: And then you start going to uni and then that takes some getting used to but yeah it was alright, it wasn't too dramatic a change

S: More for your mum than for you

E: Yep, yep

S: So has it turned out how you thought it would?

E: Ummm I don't think I really thought about it that much, I don't think I really thought about it that much, cos I wasn't panning on going for quite a while, No it was quite a last minute thing

S: Oh really when did you decide

E: Umm like a week before the deadline

S: OK, just thught you would work instead, or just hadn't really thought about uni

E: Yeah, Id kinda planned to go straight into a job

S: Ok and what changed your mind

E: Errm, looking up work and just thought I didn't want to do that already and there wasn't that much I could do I don't think. So I thought it would be better to get a degree I suppose, have something to do for a couple of years

S: Umm so, we have kind of covered this already but like how did it feel to go back for Christmas, having that 2 weeks

E: Yeah, yeah it was really nice unmm I worked quite a bit when I was at home yeah, it seems to go back into how it was befor I left within a couple of days. Whereas when I go home for the weekend everyone is nice to you for the full weekend, whereas when you go home for Christmas you start having argument so it does snap back in quite quickly

S: The realization of why you have moved away from home

E: Yeah

S: Umm, and umm do you think you act any differently here than you do at home

E: Umm, I don't think massiveltly differently probably, no, probably not

S: No, do you think that your friends are similar here to they are at home or do you think they are quite different

E: No, quite different

S: Do you think that is probably just due to who you have met

E: Yeah I think, like well house mates are different to the friends I have got a home umm

S: Is it weird to think, cos of who you have been put with, thays kinda who you, that's just how it has turned out

E: yeah I think its just how it turns out how its happens... but its not really a worse thing or a better thing its just how, its just different. Yeah

S: Yeah true, umm so where have you met most people. Is it people you have lived with, or your course or your clubs and stuff

E: Probably a bit of all of them really, suppose not that many through house more through course and rowing

S: And who would you say you are closest too so far

E: Umm probably housemates really, just cos of living with them

S: And do you think there is anything you have started to pick up off your housemates, like habits or things you have started to do differently

E: Umm, I don't think so... I haven't really watched any of their films, no. no umm I would say. I think we have all stayed different but all works.

S: Its good, its good

E: Yeah

S: Umm ok so who are you living with next year then

E: Same people Im with this year and then another couple of people who are friends with one of the boys and then his housemate or something like that

S: Ok, so how many are there of you are there

E: There will be 6 of us

S: Ok, good number. And moving from this house

E: Yep

S: Where are you moving instead

E: Umm to umm just down the road

S: Ok, like it though, and looking forward to it

E: Yep, looking forward to it

S: Cool, So is it just 2 girls still or is it..

E: No its 3 girls 3 boys

S: Keeping it even

E: Yeah (Laugh)

S: And umm, yep so what are you hoping to do when you finish uni then

E: I dunno, I really don't know

S: Anything to do with sports maybe

E: Yeah in the sports field, possibly not psychology. Possibly coaching but maybe not, see how the next year goes I suppose. Havent actually done any sports psychology this year so I wont know that till next year how that is going to pan out really

S: Is it all more of the,,,

E: Yeah I dunno, Im not quite sure what we are doing. Currently doing event and marketing at the moment so not really sure we are doing yet

S: And do you think youll still be wanting to live down south, do you want to living near a beach

E: Possibly yeah possibly, depends on jobs really, where I end up really

S: Cool, I think that is all. Thank you for your time.

Appendix I – Interview Transcript Summary 4

7th March 2013

Name: Eliza

Gender: Female

Age: 20

Course: Sociology and Social Policy

Accommodation: Halls- Lyme Regis

Length of interview: 73:34 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

- From a little town outside Dudley
- Live with brother

'Yep just me and my brother in the house, it was like living at uni before I even came it was just the two of us and he's like only 24 and I'm like 20'

- Didn't take a gap year but took a year out of education and worked in an estate agents

'I was like I hate education, I'm going to get a job, so I was an estate agent for a year and then I went back to college next year, cos I realized getting a job so soon was a bit of a mistake'

- **How did you decide on studying Sociology**

- Chose it at A-level and got interested
- Wanted to go for something that was well suited

'It was the subject that I think suited me the best so I picked that cos it's actually quite interesting to look at society as like the bigger picture'

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

- Ex-boyfriend came here and fell in love with the town

'I love being so close to the sea and that how I ended up coming here in the end'

- Course also looked really good, looked online
- Specific course and only done at five universities in the UK

- **Open Day**

- Yes, only three people in lecture but most people had come the day before
- Only 20 on whole course now

'Yeah, its really close knit, like everyone knows each other really well'

'I think the main campus looks amazing, that's proper uni life, the main campus, the cafeteria bit, I just think that Landsdowne is a bit of a, little bit on the edge, it's a little bit less good'

- Course is to help with dream job:

'My little pipe dream is, is a little business, this is my little business card'

- **Halls**

- Had already seen as Ex-boyfriend lived in Lyme, so just picked the one she knew and liked

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I had no idea of how it was all going to fit in, but it did in the end so that was good... and to be fair it did actually all fit in, the suitcases and stuff go under the bed here and in Annabel's room she has completely filled under her bed as well... the thought of taking it all home, cos like I've brought, like accumulated so much stuff as well.'

- Went down with boyfriend and brother, had last slot of the day so was last one to move in
- Thought she was in a flat with all boys but then found out Annabel was in the flat too

'I was the last one to get her and I walked in with all my stuff and put it all, and the flat, it was such a sunny day and it was just like the flat looked really really nice, cos the only one I had seen before so when I walked into our kitchen and saw the big bay windows and like the view of the sea I was like wow, oh my god this amazing, I was just so happy, I was like really nervous though'

'I thought it was pretty homely straight away, just cos of how much stuff I had brought'

'It was weird actually how quickly I got use to it like I didn't feel home sick for ages'

- Thought she was in a flat with all boys but then found out Annabel was in the flat too

'We just clicked straight away it was like, she was a little bit, umm, I think she missed home straight away so we talked a lot about that, but my family were still here till the next day so I didn't really feel the same, and just we all went out that night and it was just amazing, we looked back at the pictures the other day and we just all looked like we had known each other for ages like in the first pictures, it was so so good, so nerve-racking though'

- **Going home for Christmas**

- Back for two weeks but worked a lot
- Felt strange to go back

'Yeah it was weird seeing all the stuff I was use to, and not being use to it anymore.'

'It was like, I got use to it after being back for a little while'

- Was good to go home to see friends was like a big reunion, was like nothing had changed

'It was just comparing the nights out, like it gets a bit competitive, well Bournemouth's got this, well we've got this and it was just so nice to be back together with them. But you can tell like all of us have changed already, not in a bad way, like we've all grown and become more independent and we all had different things to talk about, cos obviously all the memories we had before were all like shared memories and then all of a sudden like this one time, this person we met at uni, we did this and just like it was nice to be able to say, well we did this and like oh we've done that as well, it was just really nice to see what kinds of interest everyone got into. Like I got into rowing and none of them expected that.'

- Changing self:

'Yeah, I think I definitely have, like Im a lot more independent'

'I feel a lot more confident actually, like everything you do here, its just you'

- **Material Possessions**

'I took a lot back, ummm there is still too much left in my room, but I took a load of my clothes back and like a few teddies back, I just had to have a few things that were more homely, like I took my main things like my laptop and stuff but I knew I was only back for two weeks so I didn't take like loads, but I took my textbooks, clothes shoes.'

- Specific things she brought: Eeyore teddy

'He has been around that long actually, Ive had him for like four years. I got him for Christmas, and it's a really random story how I got it actually, this guy I use to go to school with just started talking to me all the time and umm, I was nice, like Im quite nice I don't just, like aww ill talk to him and I didn't like him like that and I made it clear I had a boyfriend at the time and stuff, and like he brought me that for Christmas, he was a bit of stalker, but I just like it that much that I just keep it (laugh)'

- Settling in

'Yeah, I think it is the easiest life style to slip into, just cos you want to live like that, its so laid back. Especially freshers, you go out, lay in till about 3. It was like two weeks so we just, for like the whole two weeks we just went out everynight and woke up the next day at like 3 in the afternoon and just started drinking again, it was mad, and its just like nice aww it is just a nice lifestyle compared to what you are use to, I really think it is. Like you can work when you want to work, uni is only like its never all day like my full day is till 3 in the afternoon, so Ive got the rest of the day to do any work, or go training or go to the gym or go the cinema, you just, it just feels like freedom to me, it really does, its nice. Like you just feel at home...'

'Yeah it has, probably better than I had imagine actually, yeah. Cos I was like really nervous to come down, life what if I don't really meet that many people or if the course is really hard just everything just worked out so well. The people I have met are really lovely and like we have got such strong friendships already'

- Meeting People

- Annabel closest person she has met
- Then other girls she is moving in with and friends in halls
- Part of the rowing club

'It was just so nice, and it was just the sport I got into really well like really quickly'

- Habits

'I've picked up a southern accent really quickly, I don't sound like this when Im at home.'

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

- *'I think they are, but I think they can change so easily'*

- **Future**

- Moving in with a 4 girls

"Its really nice, really modern as well. Just fell in love with the kitchen. It just got a nice peak ceiling with beams in it, it is really really nice"

- **Picture Task**

➤ Brother and Girlfriend

- *'My family is really really small, and its just me and my brother now, so he means the world to me, he really does, like he has done everything for me umm. Hes looked after me for two years now, I like owe him everything, he is my idol'*
- Parents not responsible and doesn't get on with mothers new husband
- Dad passed away when she was young
- Lived together for two years
- His girlfriend is like a big sister

➤ Friends- Results day at school

- *'That's our big group of friends at college, there were loads of us all together at college. This picture really points out how small I am'*
- One of happiest days, all got into uni, change for independence

➤ Long Hair

- *'Like my long hair, I think, makes me who I am, like I couldn't imagine not having it'*

➤ Home friends

- *'Christmas market in Birmingham and that is the thing that, everyone goes to it every Christmas. Its literally like one of my favourite things back home, its like the closest thing we get to an actual celebration back home'*

➤ Travel

- *'I travelled quite a bit Europe. Like I spent a lot of time in Belgium, Holland Germany'*
- *'Yeah I just love travelling and I love going on holiday'*

➤ Friends from home

- *'my two closest friends from home, that was the last night I saw them before I moved to uni'*

➤ Best Friend at Uni (Annabel)

- *'I just love that picture, just cos it was such a good night and it was probably the sign post when you just realize, like we are actually really really good friends now, which was really nice'*

➤ Bournemouth

- *'Its such a novelty and its never going to wear off, it never will.'*

➤ Beef Casserole

- *'I'm literally really proud of it'*

➤ Business

- *'its my baby, my little business, and think that makes me, cos I really want to help people, like any chance I get to hep out in anything I will just I guess I get a bit of a kick out of it helping out'*

➤ Course friends

- *'Yeah, like this one we had just kind of met each other and how different everyone was on the course, bearing in mind we all had the same common interest of the subject, it was so weird like cos you debate a lot in sociology'*

Appendix J – Interview Transcript Summary 5

11th March 2013

Name: Niall

Gender: Male

Age: 20

Course: 3D-SGI

Accommodation: Unilet- Ensbury Park

Length of interview: 33:48 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**
 - Born in Berlin, moved to England in 1996, aged 4 – his parents are divorced and he has one brother and one sister.
 - His father is English and his Mother is German.
 - Niall took 2 gap years before coming to University – in the first gap year he lived in Germany and lived with family members, moving locations frequently.
 - He then went to visit his Dad in Australia before coming to University.
- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**
 - Best in the country for his course – applied without considering a ‘safety – net’ or second option
 - Found out it was the best place to study using the internet – prior research carried out was limited
 - He knew a few people the same age as him that were already studying here, but most of them were in 3rd year, having not taken 2 gap years like Niall.
- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**
 - He did not come to look at BU before he moved here – just came straight down – although he has been to Tower Park in Poole many times in the past.
 - He lives in Weymouth, so knows Bournemouth as a place quite well
 - He cannot remember clearly the process by which he found his current Unilet house – he was initially unhappy to be in a unilet and would have preferred to be in halls – however, he is now happy with his accommodation.
 - He packed his belongings up to come to BU on the day of departure
 - He was the first person to arrive in his house, and upon arrival ‘sorted out the heating’ and ‘checked around the house’.

- He then made tea for the others as they arrived 'and that was pretty much it, all moved in'.
- **Material Possessions**
 - First things he set up were his 'PC and guitar' which are 'definitely' his main possessions.
 - He needs his PC for his course, and then he also noted that he bought with him
- **Settling in**
 - They did not go out as a house initially, rather chose to stay in and get to know each other first.
 - Everyone got on well from the start
- **Meeting People**
 - Gets along with everyone 'put me in a room full of criminals and I'll make them laugh and be happy'
- **Going home for Christmas**
 - Cant really remember as it was so 'alcohol based' but thinks that he went home for about 3 weeks.
 -
 - It was a bit strange to go home after being away for so long.
- **Picture Task**
 - Guitar
 - 'I've had people round and played to them in the past'
 - Friends from home
 - Oh god yeah, it was getting so boring apparently, everyone is just doing their own thing, working, If your not at school or anything...
 - Drink
 - 'I am I am I just, hey, I am a great drinker I just get... I have got this t shirt that says what is it.. Im not an annoying drunk, I drink, I get drunk, I fall down, no problem (Laugh) that's me that me'
 - Listening to music
 - Music is like a big part of my life. I enjoy playing it, listening to it and everything like that
 - Mila Kunis
 - So yeah Mila Kunis (Photo 5) that's a bit of a no brainer, woman. I just love woman,
 - Drawing
 - Umm apparently since I was little, Ive always been drawing.... Since I popped out pencil in hand
 - Laughter

- Yeah like have a good laugh wherever you are, what ever your doing, yeah im always laughing smiling happy, yeah. It doesn't help that I cant actually frown. Its great
- Animals
 - I love animals, yeah I think they are awesome
- Food:
 - Lasange, I could eat it for breakfast, lunch, dinner, seconds, I just love the stuff

Appendix K – Interview Transcript Summary 6

13th March 2013

Name: Jo

Gender: Female

Age: 20

Course: Tourism Management

Accommodation: Halls- Purbeck

Length of Interview: 68:07 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

- Two brothers and parents
- Live in Rutland
- Likes horse riding and travelling

'I like horse riding, and that is basically my life'

'I like travelling and for the past two years I have been living in Australia, like travelling to New Zealand and holidaying and working sometimes'

- **Gap year**

- Went with Best friend Grace
- Went for nine months in total
- Worked and lived in Sydney for six months and travelled the rest of the time

'I basically wanted to go to Australia for like forever and ever and I asked my mum when I finish college can I go, and she was like yeah of course as long as you pay for it yourself hahaha your never going to be able to save that much, so I was like I am going to do it then, so I saved up the money and go, and just told her I had booked my ticket and like, and she was like what? And was like I was like yeah I'm going to Australia, and she was like ok'

- Was meant to go back home and go to university to study teaching but instead flew back out to New Zealand for 2months.
- Did the Kiwi Experience with another friend

'I got back and I was suppose to go to uni to do teaching, but decided I didn't like children and that was the kinda main point of being a teacher, and it was like too late to go through clearing and stuff'

'So I went with another friend, umm and then we did the Kiwi Experience so we basically joined a massive, well we didn't realize but it turned out to be a massive party bus hat became like this big family and we just travelled around New Zealand doing stupid things together'

- Going travelling to Thailand this summer through course

'it was ok leaving home because I went for the first two months in Australia we stayed with my friends Auntie so it was kind of, like kind of not too bad cos at least we knew someone there but whereas when we left Lou's house it got completely terrifying cos we were just in Sydney, like I don't know anyone, just in a hostel. Yeah that was pretty scary. And just being away from my parents cos obviously I'm not use to it, but I have always been quite independent, so the actual living myself was not an issue, it was more just the being so far away from them that was pretty crap'

- **Why did you choose to study Tourism Management?**

'I started looking and I didn't really know what I wanted to do and I'm interested in travel and tourism from all the travel I have done and stuff so I didn't really think about anything else to do cos it doesn't interest me'

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

- Bournemouth and Surrey were best universities that offered course and were basically on par
- Didn't have the grades for Surrey
- Ended up picking Bournemouth
- Has friends down here already and brother goes to Southampton University

'Its more location to uni, the unis were basically on par so there wasn't really anything in it but the actual location was a big thing, like having the new forest rather than Guildford, which is pretty crap so'

- **Did you attend an open day, if so can you please talk me through what happened on the day**

'I just turned up and thought it was really pretty, and just liked it'

- Did go to the lectures

'They make the course sounds absolutely amazing, they really sold it to me'

- Did the buses to the Halls, went and looked round Lyme.
- Tour of town and the beach
- Really like that it was all on one campus

'Looking round that put me off Halls massively'

'From driving through Ringwood, I got a good feeling, my mum turned round and was like this is where you are going to go. It just a perfect place.'

'It just looks new, it doesn't look run down and crappy, it just looks like a nice place to be'

- Purbeck Halls – been told that it was a really fun halls
- Looked at all the halls online

'Its fine, its nothing less than I expected. It is just halls. I don't want to be in halls forever... its what you make of it.'

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'We literally just packed up and my parents just stayed for the weekend'

- Came down with parents
- Only brought new bedding, most stuff was just things that she already had

'Everything was pretty much just what I had from home'

- Was really early when arrived
- Arrived on the Sunday, had a lot of people helping out
- Unpacked and went for lunch with parents

'Made my room, into a room'

- One boy already moved in. two other boys arrived after and the girl (Sarah) did not arrive for a couple of days as was on holiday

'It was really weird, I didn't really want to be here, I don't really want to come to Uni and obviously I didn't really want to be in Halls... but having everything in, and all my stuff from home definitely made it a bit easier. Like I had my home comforts.'

'I brought like hundreds of photos so at least then it was like home'

'makes such a difference having photos'

'You go into some of the guys rooms and it is like a prison cell, there is a bed, a computer and that's it.'

- **Material Possessions**

- Anything specific- horse riding kit

'No I was quite easy, I don't think there was anything that I was like I cannot forget that'

- Brought more stuff from home as well
- Door always open, very open and shares stuff
- Favourite things: Bed, very comfy, Mirror

- **Going home for Christmas**

'It was amazing, it was so good'

- Only went home once between starting uni and Christmas and just needed a break
- The novelty wore off and wanted to get back to University again.

'Uni is great, but it just gets intense, living with the same people all the time, seeing your friends all the time. At that point drinking and partying all the time. So it was just nice to go home, like I'm so use to my farm land silence'

'It was weird but it was really refreshing, cos I play mum a lot here'

'Back home I just fall back into my life so quickly'

- Nice to just relax and forget university existed for a while

'Its surprising how much I do miss him while I'm away'

- Good group of friends back home]There is 5 that are really close, 3 took 2 gap years- all basically on similar levels
- Work a lot while back at home

'Like I have a really good girl group back home, which is really surprising cos I don't have one here'

'We all get home and fall into normal life'

- Don't think friends have changed a lot but do think they have all grown up
- Been on gap years so had already had to grow up then

- **Settling in**

- Joined the rowing society/boat club
- Became a cox
- However, now work at weekend so don't do it as much
- Joined because friend (Jess) wanted to try it

'It was something different to do'

- Job- works with horses

- **Meeting People**

- Definitely everything- Halls, course, Rowing and Job

- Closest too- Jess and George and Lonz
- Have more boy friends in Bournemouth than girl friends

'I did Leggit with George and Lonz and that made us so close cos you are literally stuck with each other for like 48 hours'

'I don't know why but girls have never tended to like me in the past, so I didn't really make a huge effort with many girls'

'Once girls have their little friend group its quite hard to barge your way in'

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

'I definitely think they can change, I can put my hand up and say Im one of the most judgmental people I know. I went on Facebook to look at my flat mates and the only person I saw was Aaron and he's a big and ginger and his profile picture was him sat on the toilet, from Milton Keynes, like everything in a person I would generally hate so I was sat there going look who I have to live with, he's got tattoos and he's ginger and he's massive and he scares me and yeah I rocked up and I have never met a nicer guy, like he is so caring. He just is lovely, he will always knock on my room are you ok, he's just lovely'

- Thinks they can definitely change, but hard not to judge people

- **Habits**

- Accent, mannerisms, cleanliness

- **Future**

- Moving in with four boys
- It was either that or eight girls
- But happy with choice

- **When finishes University wants to**

'No I don't have clue to be honest... I don't want to live in the UK and I want to do something travelling, but other than that I don't really know.'

- Take a year out to travel when finish
- Love meeting new people, met so many people from all over the world, so may new perspectives and just doing things you wouldn't usually do back home. Seeing the most amazing places

'Just kind of just do'

- Picture Task

1. Home
 - *'Just the countryside... this is me, I love the countryside and just not seeing anything other than countryside'*
2. New Zealand
 - *'This is just my adventure side'*
3. New Zealand Naked Photo
 - *'This is another stupid daring adventure side that I'm not scared to do stupid things is my idea behind this one'*
 - New Zealand adventure, one of the most beautiful walks in the world
4. Family Holidays
 - *'This is in Gozo, where I have had my family holidays since I was like eleven'*
 - Family and holiday, been every year bar one.
 - So convenient
 - *'Really close to my family, a lot closer since I've travelling and stuff'*
 - *'I literally ring my mum every day since I've been at uni'*
5. Bungee Jump
 - *'Again my adventure side'*
 - Had said she would do it since she was 16, a pride thing.
 - *'It was the worst feeling ever'*
 - *'But it did make me feel amazing'*
6. Friends from home
 - *'This is my friendship group'*
 - Photo shoot to remember the time at school
7. Skydive
 - *'It was amazing, a lot more fun'*
 - *'It's a lot easier to do'*
8. Family
 - *'Just cos they are my little rock'*
 - *'They are always there'*
9. Best Friend
 - *'This is my best friend Grace, I was going to put a normal one of us but it just didn't work, this is definitely more fitting'*
 - Has been best mate since started school, went to Australia with her
 - *'She is one of those people I won't see for months and then we met up and its like we haven't been apart'*
10. Home
 - *'This is basically my home...again just countryside and niceness'*
11. Horse
 - *'Horse riding is my life, I do it every single day back home'*
 - Rode every single day from 11
 - Do hunting as well

Appendix L – Interview Transcript Summary 7

15th March 2013

Name: Beatrice

Gender: Female

Age: 19

Course: Applied Geography

Accommodation: Halls- Purbeck

Length of interview: 55:18 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

- From Guildford, Surrey
- Live with mum, dad and sister, 22

'I've had a very good upbringing and went to a good school, had a job since I was 16'

- Couldn't afford to take a gap year so came straight to university

- **How did you decide on choosing Applied Geography**

- Always done geography since GCSE
- Skills that will learn will be extremely employable

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

'I love the place, I came down here, when I first got the guide, the university guide through the post, just like the way it, it was almost the way it was written it sounded so much more friendly than some universities when I just came for an interview here I could just see myself here'

- **Open day**

- Only an afternoon thing
- Had a talk about the place and course
- Didn't see halls
- Got family in Christchurch so had visited before

'You can kind of see yourself and where you are going to be at university, you've got to spend three or four years here, ummm and it was kinda of like gut instinct'

- **Halls**

- Looked at them online
- Also someone recommended Purbeck

'I didn't really have that much of an idea or opinion really, because I hadn't really been in other halls before so and I'm not jealous of Dorchester having a double bed, cos like I really enjoy living here and having this room, it's spacious enough'

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I left packing to the last minute, it was awful like literally like the day before'

'I had quite a lot of stuff, cos my sister has like just finished her degree and was moving back in as I was moving out so it was ok, so like her I got her plates and pans and pots and pans so umm that was quite useful but I got like things that are more me, like more girly like a duvet set like just over the course of the summer holidays.'

'I came with my whole family, we were the worse. I had like two cars full of stuff and everyone else just came with one car and I had two cars'

- Only three people moved into flat on first day so quite quiet
- Had BBQ in courtyard and went out to Old Firestation

'It's just weird looking back on that day cos it was so weird that day cos your trying to put on your best face to make the best impressions and your like what was I actually like that day'

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

- **Yeah but they can change**

'Like a lot of my impressions have changed, like its I think I have just relaxed more, like on the first day, your not trying to impress people but like your just trying to be really nice, yeah like really friendly, like even though like 99% of the time you are a friendly person, but your just trying so hard to be just like smiling all the time and everything, I think you can instantly tell if your going to get on with someone or not'

- **Material Possessions**

'For me it was more of a just bring everything and I did not need everything'

- Took some things back at Christmas that she did not need
- But pretty much has all her belonging her as she lives in Bournemouth more that she does at home
- Photos on pinboard- put them up in the first couple of days

'Yeah they are all from the past couple of years, that one was from my 18th yeah I love it.'

- **Settling in**

'Umm it was ok like I'm extremely lucky with like the people in my flat the people opposite, like I love, we all get on so well, like I was extremely lucky like I was very happy to live here, and have people that are so similar to me, and like we just instantly clicked'

'I definitely think it has exceed what I had hoped it would be like, I was like really, obviously I was like I'm going to love uni, I've never said that I was not going to go to uni it was one of those things where you either go to or don't and I've always wanted to go and I think coming here is one of the best decisions I've ever made and I love and I wouldn't change it'

- However dog died two weeks after freshers

'It took me a while to get back into being at uni, just cos it is like hard being away from home and id only known these people for two weeks so there is only so much sympathy they can have for me'

- **Meeting People**

- Joined the rowing team
- Course- really small so know everyone really well
- Closest to Megan who she lives with:

'Like I live with her so I see her, like she is one of the first people I see when I wake up in the morning so we see each other when we are in our worse moods so I probably get on with her the most'

'The rest of the girls I'll see once I've had a shower and put my make up on, like its just slightly different like she is my sisters basically. Like she is the year above me as well which I think kind of makes a difference, she does look after me a lot more. She does like to cook me dinner, she's so cute.'

- **Going home for Christmas**

'Yeah it was weird actually, yeah like a lot of them had gone to uni, some of them had stayed and got full time jobs now. Umm but yeah umm it was nice to hear'

'It was just like old times like nothing had changed'

'I think I have learnt to be more patient with people and stick up for myself.'

'I would say I'm closer to my dad but I think moving away has made me close'

- **Future**

- Moving in with 4 other girls, two houses next door to each other

- **When finishes University wants to**

'I think I want to go into something to do with the environment and climate change because for one it is to do with my course and everything and two like climate is such a big thing'

- **Picture Task**

➤ Festivals

- *'I just love, love gigs and concerts and everything... that's me with one of my really good friends Tori from back home, and I think it just shows how happy we were that weekend'*
- Mixed music taste, depends on mood

➤ Holidays

- *'These photos just make me laugh, that one we all have our eyes closed at the same time, I think it just shows how, Like I love going on holiday and I love hot countries, I love sitting by the pool and having a tan and ummm just going on holiday with my friends is like one of the funniest things.'*
- Wants to go to Thailand this summer to do volunteering as part of course

➤ Dog

- *'That is my doggy who passed away (photo5) and that is my new puppy (Photo 6)... who we got a few weeks ago, yeah I absolutely love him, he is so sweet.'*
- *'I think this is just to represent how much I love animals, I'm just like so passionate about them'*

➤ Gigs

- *'I'm like an outgoing person and I think sometimes I enjoy festivals more than holidays, just I dunno, I don't mind camping and being rough for a few days I think it's fine, it's worth it'*

➤ Friends back home

- *'Like I am so glad I have a group of girls here like similar to the ones I have at home, like I dunno what I would do without like my girlfriends they are amazing, and they are just so much fun as well.'*

- *'I've come here and got the same here, I've got like two sets of best friends now in a way, its just so nice, yeah'*
- Money
 - *'I do enjoy having a job in a way I'll always complain about it, like I've got to go to work and stuff but like I enjoy having a job and being out with the public and everything, like umm I just think however like rich, like say I married a really rich man I didn't have to work, I'd still chose to any day, absolutely, I just want to have a good life for myself, I don't want to be like mega rich or famous, I just want to be comfortable, I just want to be happy, I just want to have a job that I love, but I want to be able to grow up and be able to like pay for things that I really enjoy like going to festivals and stuff without having to worry about money'*

Appendix M – Interview Transcript Summary 8

23rd April 2013

Name: Andrew

Gender: Male

Age: 18

Course: Engineering

Accommodation: Halls- Purbeck

Length of Interview: 54:50 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**
 - Twin brother and little brother, mum and dad
 - Big family
 - Grew up in London for six years and then grew up in Twyford, out in the country
 - Played badminton till 16, then moved on to Rugby and more extreme sports like surfing and snowboarding
 - Long distance cycling – did Lands End to John O’Groats
- **Why did you choose to study Engineering?**
 - Always been good at math and felt was doing the right A-levels

‘Sort of just fell into it, and enjoyed it’

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**
 - Had put other universities above it and had Bournemouth as a joke
 - Bournemouth was because his nana was down here
 - Nan has got a bit old and decided it was a good idea for someone to be down here a lot of the time. So decided to come to Bournemouth to be close

‘I kinda chose it cos it had a good website as well’

- **Did you attend an open day, if so can you please talk me through what happened on the day**
 - Came to visit for interview
 - The interview had an open day tied into it
 - Already new the place

‘I spend every summer down here cos my nan lives here, so I knew it really well’

- Thought the university was really friendly, very keen to help and showed them everything
- Didn't look at the halls, chose Purbeck:

'I was walking through uni with my Mum and she shouted at a student that was walking in front of us (Laugh) and was like excuse me do you know what the best halls were, and he said Purbeck so I went on that'

- Halls- a lot of noise at first, but got use to it now. He said he would of preferred a house just cos its more convenient, not too fussed at being close to town

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I think I packed in like three hours. Just put my room into my bag'

- Came down with the whole family
- Also came down two days late to freshers as had to go to a wedding

'It was like they were already friends and I was like Hey'

'It took me about a month to make proper friends with them, cos I was always a bit awkward and I had a girlfriend at the time who I was constantly like calling and complaining about'

- Just see halls as a room

'I went on a couple of nights out, but I am like the worst student ever cos I'm not a massive fan of clubbing, I grew up in the country'

- Get on with housemates bit don't have a lot in common

- **Material Possessions**

- Specific things he brought: Guitar

'I brought my guitar, I remember thinking I really needed that'

- Plays a lot, with friends or as a retreat. Use to have a band at school but just a fun hobby now. Played since he was in year 8.
- Things he didn't bring:

'Yeah my bike Nicole. Yeah she's called Nicole. She was too precious and my

little teddy bear scratch... if nothing happened to him I would cry. Like I'm not like really sentimentally attached to him but when I was a kid, like I remember I lost him in London and my mum had to go out trawling the streets for it, I was inconsolable'

- Bike- did John O'Groats to Lands End on it. Did it in 9 days with twin, Richard.

'It was a real adventure'

- Missed his bed and garden from home.

'There is not a lot of green in Bournemouth like where I'm from'

- **Settling in**

- Took about a month to settle in
- First person in family to go to uni

'Never been away from Rich for more than 9 days or two weeks, so I was in a mess'

'He got the brawn and I got the brains'

'Everything is a competition for us'

- Rich is currently on his gap year, so been away and not seen him for a long time. Going to Oxford Brookes next year
- Didn't take a gap year himself cos didn't think he would get back into academia
- Didn't enjoy the first week of the course, just felt it was rubbish and not learning anything
- Missed team sports at first
- Met Dan (best friend) through course and other friends through the church he goes to
- Also friends through Rowing as well

- **Has it turned out how you imagined it would?**

- Met great people and so many opportunities

'I didn't think it would be more work and less straight up having fun'

'The friend group I have down here is just insane, I didn't think I would have this good a group of friends'

- **Going home for Christmas**

- So good to see friends again
- Out of 15 good friends, 1 good travelling, rest of them have gone to uni about 12.

- Friends/Self changing:

'Like one of the girls just turned into a maniac, like in the first week she cheated on her boyfriend with three different guys'

'Like other people changed, like my mates that went to Cambridge, not changed for the worse, but just changed. I cant put my finger on what changed them'

'I went home this Easter and people have said I have changed, they said I was more confident'

- Big family Christmas so quite stressful

'I found it quite difficult to get back in the groove of chores and responsibilities'

'My family changed loads, like Jamie became such a little brat'

- Rowing- just something I went to, and just appeal to him.
Very chilled out club
- Had to stop playing Rugby as was injured

'I think in my head I must have slightly copied my dad...part of me just wanted to see what it was'

'Still quite a testosterone buzz'

- Meeting People

- Dan through course

'I remember me and Dan met cos we were both at circuits'

'We share all the same hobbies'

'We probably spend too much time together'

- Other group through the Church, loads of students go to it

'Just stumbled across it'

- Rowing

'Spend a lot of time together'

- Habits- picked up phrases/saying off friends and inside jokes

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

'I think they are important, like it is very easy to be initially put off people'

- Does think it can change though

- **Future**

- Moving in with two boys
- Really looking forward to it
- All group of girl friends are moving in next year

- **When finishes University wants to**

'I want to go travelling...I want to go out to Africa'

'I just want to see a bit of the world'

'Like obviously get a job'

- **Picture Task**

➤ Family

- *'We spend a lot of time together and they have taught me key morals and stuff, I dunno, I just love my family.'*
- Always meet up with whole family each year

➤ Rich (Twin)

- *'We are not literally clones, and we are actually quite different'*
- *'We became partners in crime'*

➤ Friends

- *'If you've got friends you are going to have a good time. A shoulder to lean on, and to help each other out'*
- *'I've got friends who are like brothers and sisters'*

➤ Sport

- *'I just love sport'*
- Snowboarding –picked it up pretty quick, been about three times

➤ University Course

- *'Success in academia is a big part... if I do well in a test I do good'*
- Doesn't think it defines him, but big part

➤ Rowing

- *'Rowing, I love it'*
- *'It has really molded me'*
- Given him the discipline
- Team sport- team work and doesn't want to let the side down
- *'It has really helped me just grow up'*

- Church
 - *'I got brought up as a Christian...just always been a big part of my life'*
 - *'It really has a backbone, like certain morals'*
- Adventure
 - *'I think that is just growing up with three lads, like who can climb the highest tree... I just love that buzz that you get'*
 - Pushing self to extreme, competitive side
- Music
 - *'Mum insisted when we were growing up we would always pursue a sport and we would always learn an instrument'*
 - *'I love that I can play instruments, like Piano and Guitar. And I love that I can just chill out with my guitar, I dunno, its just really nice'*
 - Very relaxing

Appendix N – Interview Transcript Summary 9

24th April 2013

Name: George

Gender: Male

Age: 19

Course: Marketing Communications

Accommodation: Halls- Lyme Regis

Length of Interview: 38:05 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

- Born in Carlisle, and moved to Reading when he was 3 and has lived there every since
- Named George, mum just liked the name

'It just because my Mum found it in a book and, she was like, that's a nice name'

- Surname – Step dad's and that's Mauritian
- Most of Family Irish
- Didn't take a gap year, but wish he had

- **Why did you choose to study marketing?**

- Back up plan, actually want to do Drama

'It's kind of like a back up plan cos I want to be an Actor'

- Wants to have a degree under his belt
- Dad owns his own marketing business

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

- Didn't want to go anywhere north
- Some of his best friends are already at Bournemouth (about 4 in Lyme Regis)

'Some of my best friends are already at Bournemouth, and they told me how good it is'

- Went to open day

'When I went to the open day the marketing talk, out of all the other open days was the one that interested me the most and I liked the beach'

- Location/Beach

- **Did you attend an open day, if so can you please talk me through what happened on the day**

- Didn't look at any of the accommodation
- Mainly library, Poole house, and some lectures/talks about advertising and marketing
- Didn't see town on the day but came down for friends birthday
- Loved Bournemouth straight away, very modern
- Picked Lyme Regis because thought it looked the nicest from pictures

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I packed like the night before, I literally crammed everything into a suitcase'

- Went shopping with mum for essentials (utensils, bed sheets)
- Drove down on Sunday morning, dumped everything in his room and unpacked
- Went out with housemates
- Half of halls moved in on Saturday and other half on Sunday

'They were already use to it all like going to bed and stuff, but I was like oo exciting'

- **Talk me through your first day**

- Came down with Mum and brother

'I came down with my mum and my brother...and they both cried...even my brother'

- Really liked room, really clean, thick walls, and bathrooms spacious

'Put posters up...and just customized everything'

'Everyone has a different way of making it theirs'

- Really liked room, really clean, thick walls, and bathrooms spacious

- **Material Possessions**

- Specific things he brought: Passport, qualifications, certificate, clothes
- Things he didn't bring:

'I've got a box of stuff at home that I've collected since like primary school, like special things like possessions and I didn't want to take it incase I break it, so I left it at home under my bed where I cant touch it'

- Favorite things: Nintendo Wii, TV, Pin board

'In Lyme we have this pin board above our beds, so like every time me and my boyfriend go out we put souvenirs on their, so like we have built up a massive collage of things we have done together, so I like that. That's my favorite'

- Boyfriend- works in London, from Wales. Works in M&M world dressed up as the blue M&M and does performances in the shop. Spends a lot of time in Bournemouth seeing Gino. Been together for six months. Going on holiday next week to Disneyland for a week.

- **Settling in**

'It was weird like going back to your flat and not having any one you know, like family or having the dogs around'

'I settled in within a couple of days'

- Fresher events helped meet lots of people. Fresher fair and club events
- Did signup to acting classes but didn't find them helpful
- Wants to join tennis club
- Acting wise- go to auditions that he likes the look of, mostly in London but hard to fit in with Uni work
- Has it turned out how you imagined
- Acting: before uni: went to drama club, was in school productions and went to stagecoach and acting classes. Wants to do more in the summer.

'I just wish I had pursued it a bit more, like being a bit more determined to do it'

- **Has it turned out how you imagined it would?**

- Definitely

'It's everything I thought it would be'

- **Going home for Christmas**

- Go home quite often, not too far away
- Going home for Christmas was nice, being back for a good solid three weeks, meals cooked, free food
- 10 in good group of friends and only 4 went to uni

'Its annoying cos you see on Facebook and they are all together on nights out and I wish I was there'

'Just being able to walk the dogs again, its just nice to do that'

- Friends all seem the same, haven't changed
- Said that Gino has changed:

'They said I've changed, but not in a bad way, I think cos I went out in freshers but I don't go out at all anymore. I just don't enjoy going clubbing'

- Said boyfriend has had an effect, prefer spending time with him than always going out. Toned him down.

- **Meeting People**

- Lyme Regis Facebook page in before moved in, so kind of new who you moving in. Felt would be less awkward when he moved in.
- Through course and friends

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

'Normally, for me, first impressions count...and I think they are important'

- Most people he has met are nice and not really changed since he got to know them at university
- Closest to two of flatmates
- Habits – not really

'I don't think I've been influenced, like change my habits for them'

- But works and phases through Danny (Boyfriend), have started to pick up.

- **Future**

- Moving in with two boys (current flatmates) and two girls, friends of the boys next year in Winton
- Wants to get a part time job
- Looking forward to being able to all chill out together in living room
- When finishes University wants to pursue acting, wants to move to London as soon as possible.
- Doing a Marketing degree and doesn't even want to do it after
- If he don't get the results he wants this year he might leave, but at least he has tried it. Still deciding on whether he will
-

- **Picture Task**

➤ **Lady GaGa**

- *'Love her music and everything she stands for, and a bit of cheesiness now. Her concert was where I first met Danny.'*
- Likes what she stands for and how courageous she is

- Camped before the concert, like a little community and met really nice people and Danny through the concert.
- Boyfriend
 - *'That's just a picture of me and Danny. That's the first day I met him and we are doing the Charlie's Angel Pose. So that's the first day I met him so that's got nice memories for me. He's formed a big part of my life'*
 - Met him just before University started, was bad timing but worked out fine
- Fashion
 - *'This is male models wearing nice clothes. I really like fashion and I take prides in it'*
 - Spends a lot of his money on clothes.
 - Would like to go into fashion in the future.
- Pop Music
 - *'Its like the only thing I listen to, I don't like anything else. That's why I don't like going clubbing cos its always like house music.'*
 - Like to listen to words,
 - Likes concerts, gigs and festivals
- Hairspray
 - This one specifically (Tresemme the five star one)
 - *'I can't leave the house without hairspray'*
 - Normally carries one around as well
- Acting
 - *'Like I said before acting is a massive part of my life and a career I want to pursue'*
 - Want to be able to do it more
- Family
 - *'I know it sounds weird but I really like tracing back my family and my family tree, like me and Danny do it together and its really interesting to see who you find'*
 - *'Like my family are always there for me, they are a massive part of my life'*
 - Live with Mum, brother, sister and step dad
- Julia Roberts
 - *'My favourite actress of all time'*
 - Classy
 - Like Jennifer Lawrence, Cameron Diaz, and Angelia Jolie as well
- Vanilla Coke
 - *'When it was first out I was addicted'*
 - Its just com back, going to be addicted again
 - Favourite drink
- Gay Pride Flag
 - *'Its part of who I am, and I'm like proud of it'*
 - *'When I came out after GCSEs a lot of people told me they respected me a lot for it and were proud of me that I did it, so like it is a big part of my life and I got a lot of respect for it'*

Appendix O – Interview Transcript Summary 10

26th April 2013

Name: Chris

Gender: Male

Age: 19

Course: Leisure Marketing

Accommodation: Unilet – Ensbury Park

Length of Interview: 58:00 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

- From Brighton

'I'm a Brighton boy'

- Mum and Dad and Brother, 39, Sister 33, Sister 26

'So I'm like the baby of the group'

- **Why did you choose to study Leisure Marketing?**

- Originally chose Events Management but unfortunately didn't get on to the course. Was annoyed at first.
- Was told he would be better suited for Leisure Marketing
- Good group of people on course and more variety on the course

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

- Looked at other universities: Greenwich, Chichester and Southampton Solent
- Heard it was a good university, had the most UCAS points and employability rate is high
- New, upcoming university
- Location-by the beach

'I chose Bournemouth as my firm choice, and Greenwich as my second but umm I don't know why but I was a bit unsure'

'I went through the whole day debating which one to go to and then I decided to go to Bournemouth and then and that's another reason why I'm in a Unilet'

- **Did you attend an open day, if so can you please talk me through what happened on the day**

- Came to an open day

'I was really impressed, it was a good tour around uni and stuff like that, I had been to open days for all the other universities as well but I just thought this seemed the best place, it was a good location, very popular and the course itself, did look and is good, and everyone seemed friendly as well'

- **Unilet**

'It isn't the best of things'

'I tried to apply for the student village but I didn't get into that so when I got into a Unilet it was very demoralizing, it just sort of felt like great, I'm here and I'm not going to meet anyone...so I was quite upset really'

- Not happy with Unilet at all. Doesn't get on with housemates, all very different.
- Far away from everyone else
- Felt it effected his freshers week, hard to meet as many people

'It feels there is nothing to talk about'

'Drinking is a big factor, especially in freshers you drink and all socialize, it just seems easier for everyone to get along and its more fun'

'I just feel very segregated, and being who I am, coming from home and being a very sociable guy with lots of friends, it feels very different and I know its bad to say but I do like hate living there'

'I would do anything to have freshers again, to have halls and just meet people'

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I came down with my mum and dad and sister, even though she doesn't live at home she just wanted to come and make sure I was alright'

- First person to move into the house
- Excited about the prospects
- Went out with housemates, went to the local pub and bonded

'At first it just felt strange'

'I felt good... It was sort of a fresh start, it was good'

'I was sad that I would be leaving my mum and dad for a long while, but it

was good cos I like my independence'

- Hadn't seen what it was going to look like before
- Seems very family orientated and wants more of a student house

'The house is nice, its just the housemates, like if I had had better housemates this year could have been a lot better'

- **Material Possessions**

'I more or less brought everything'

- TV, PS3, Xbox, 90% of my clothes, bike, skateboard
- Brought stuff to do with Academic side- Laptop, Printer

- **Settling in**

'Mixed reviews so far'

'I was let down in freshers'

'At first I love it, and then after a month, just one evening it kind of just hit me and I was quite upset'

'I'm a very family orientated person...I'm very open with my mum and dad'

'Got to learn to live on your own in the big wide world'

- Parents have come to visit like 3 or 4 times
- Joined the rowing team- weekend are always filled up now
- My dad encouraged me to join the rowing team
- Get to met a lot of people, get time away from your course.
- Think freshers fair helped as well, was really friendly

'I'm glad I've done the rowing cos I've kind of taken an eye for it... met some nice people and met my girlfriend through it'

- **Going home for Christmas**

- Because of work didn't get much of a Christmas break
- Only got 3 or 4 days in a row so not much of a break
- Big New Years party down in Bournemouth with friends from back home
- Friends to uni: only about 1 or 2 so only one that has left, felt like the only one to get away
- Nice to go back for Christmas even though short

'It is what uni is about, to get away'

'It was nice having someone look after me for a couple of days, it was a bit weird hearing things change'

'I felt a lot of people had changed since I've been away'

'I'd probably say I'm more mature, at university I wouldn't say I was that mature but going home I am more mature'

'I do feel more of an adult going back home'

'I would say I've become a better person'

- **Meeting People**

- People on course are good

'There is small group of us but meeting them has been good... we are closer cos we are a smaller group'

- Got quite a few friends who came here and who are in Halls, still get the experience
- Closest to the guy across the road because he lives close by
- Like have different friends for doing different things
- Also part of the rowing team so close to a lot of them, and good to let off steam with them

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

'Yeah I think first impressions are important, but I don't want to sound judgmental'

'First impressions do count'

'You want to make sure you are in with the right crowd'

- Does think they can change though
- Become 'clicks' feels sometimes he is an outsider because in a Unilet

- **Future**

- Moving in with 3 guys, really looking forward to it. Good location and good group

- **When finishes University wants to**

'Even in first year, I have been thinking about it, it does play on your mind'

'I don't want to face reality yet'

'I'm keeping my options open'

- Your course is what you think you want to do
- Really like the idea of travelling
- At the moment wants to be a student forever
- Eventually want to be in the events industry, have a good job and be able to enjoy it

'I want to have a family one day, but just not at the moment'

- Picture Task

- Posing photo of self
 - *'I think I'm a fashionable person, posy sort of guy'*
 - I think it is good to make a good impression
 - I don't want to be the odd one out and I'd rather be who I am than hid it
- Friends
 - Sociable guy
 - *'I like being with people'*
 - Lots of going out
- Shopping
 - *'My skateboard on the right I've had that for a good six months, and I know it sounds silly but I use that as transport'*
 - *'I class it as my baby, I take it everywhere with me and its just nice'*
 - Brought a new one as well
- Models
 - *'I just like photography, and if I see a good image or photo I just want it on my phone or computer library cos I like it'*
- Sport
 - *'I took a photo of the skulls'*
 - Like sports
- Family
 - *'Family is a big part of my life'*
 - Like I always want to see them
 - Close to brothers and sister
 - Always talk to each other for hours when meet up
- Girlfriend
 - Just got quite a few pictures of her
- Photography
 - *'I know it sounds really kiddy but I just like it'*
 - *'Take pictures of towns I visited'*
- Rowing
 - Lots of training and always there

Appendix P – Interview Transcript Summary 11

30th April 2013

Name: David

Gender: Male

Age: 18

Course: Engineering

Accommodation: Unilet – Winton

Length of Interview: 59:22 minutes

- **Can you tell me a bit about yourself, your background, where you are from, your hobbies and your family**

'My family, love them to bits'

- I'm tall, love sport and music
- Brother (Ben), 21 currently studying in New York
- From Basingstoke- lived in the same house all his life

'I'd probably say they are the best parents in the world'

- Originally tried to get into Southampton but missed out by one mark, so came to Bournemouth through clearing
- Wanted to do Acoustical engineering, only do it at Southampton
- Now prefers Bournemouth, more laid back

'It was a last minute decision'

- Didn't apply to Bournemouth originally. Spent clearing day and a couple of days after ringing round and got Bournemouth and Brunel.
- Came to visit both of them.

- **Clearing open day**

- First time came to visit the uni
- Got showed round
- Got to speak to some of the course leader
- Got a tour of halls as well
- Applied for Dorchester Halls but was too late really

- **Unilet**

'To be honest I didn't really mind, I bagged some really good housemates, they are quality housemates'

'Missing out on the halls experience is one thing but to be honest I know lots of people in Halls...more people end up coming to our house than me going to their halls'

- **How did you decide on choosing Bournemouth University**

- Grandparents live in High cliff but hadn't really seen Bournemouth town much

- **Can you talk me through your process of moving to Bournemouth**

'I went out and brought like kitchen utensils, the classics, like duvets and bed sheets'

'Kind of the needs were the only things I brought'

'They brought me alcohol to make friends, they said (Laugh)'

- Got to house really early
- Moved in by midday and no one else had arrived
- Hadn't contacted any of his housemates before hand
- Went shopping, and came back and there were two more housemates
- 5 of them, 3 boys 2 girls – three moved in on the first day
- Had only seen a picture of the outside of the house so couldn't really gauge it.
- Went out on the first night

'Was singing single ladies with a group of people I didn't know'

- **Material Possessions**

- Specific things he brought: Guitar, speakers, laptop and iPad
- Guitar- just enjoy playing:

'Played one since I was nine...play for myself really, I'm not a big performer, people normally have to ask me to play'

'It's the nicest guitar I have ever played, and its mine...so I brought that one to Uni. I literally play it all the time but I don't let anyone touch it, unless they are an experienced guitarist'

'It was the most amazing present and I will keep it for the rest of my life'

- Left behind first acoustic and electric Guitar

- **Settling in**

'I quite liked my new room, its quite big... and I've got these big bay windows'

'It was easy to like, to like get use to living somewhere else. I guess I didn't really consider it home till just before Christmas'

'They are now both home'

- Felt more settled in second term, felt actually good friends who could just hand out with

- **Rowing**

- Met a previous rower and got talking
- Went to freshers fair and got dragged in
- Now more relaxed about it
- Meet a lot of people through that

'It became my life, now its just my sport'

- **Church**

- Had a friend from Basingstoke, and he knew I wanted to find a church

'I went to this one and loved it immediately, like everyone there is absolutely legends... there is some of my favourite people in the world there'

- Now taken new friends, including Rich and Adam
- Very down to earth

'We always do stuff together'

- **Course**

'I don't really hand with my course mates... the rest of them, doing engineering, you can class them as a little bit quirky'

- **Meeting People**

- Closest to Adam and Bentliff
- Habits – new phrases

- **Do you think first impressions are important**

'Yeah I think they are important, I think people judge people as soon as they see them, the way they dress, the way they look'

'I was too busy trying to make sure people liked me, that I didn't really spend time thinking that persons cool, that persons not. I just wanted to get on with everyone'

- **Going home for Christmas**

- Went home for whole three weeks
- First term went back about three times before Christmas as wanted to see friends
- This term I would rather stay in Bournemouth than Basingstoke

- Most of friend have gone to uni and a few are taking a gap year
- Didn't take a gap year cos dint think he would get back in the routine of working

'When everyone is back its decent cos you get to see everyone'

- Friends changed: some friends have become 'sex addict'
- Most people have stayed the same
-

'I don't think I have, but someone told me I am more mature'

- **Future**

- Moving in with Adam, best mate from Basingstoke who is down here at the uni too and another housemate from this year
- Some of best friends are moving in next door

- **When finishes University wants to**

'Yeah I don't really know (Laugh) I've been trying to answer that question since GCSEs

'I dint think I want to be an Engineer'

'I use to have a dream about opening up my own surf school down in Devon, that would be pretty sick'

- **Picture Task**

➤ Watersports

- Surfing in particular
- *'I consider surfing the best sport in the world'*
- Did it for the first time in Devon, have always wanted to try it.
- Go on family holidays
- Normally just in the UK
- Really want to go abroad and try it as have really good surf
- *'My parents have blessed me massively, like my dad has worked so hard, but they have always given us opportunities in sport'*
- *'Football was my main sport for most of my life'*
- Was nice to do a different sport instead though

➤ Family

- *'They have brought me up pretty well'*
- *'They have always given me the best of what they could'*
- Close to Brother, see him as a best friend.
- *'We just get on really well now'*

➤ Friends

- *'All of them'*
- *'I have a solid group of friends back home'*
- Gets on well with other people, enjoys others peoples company
- Sport
 - Just generally, just keep adding more sports
- Music and Singing
 - Have already discussed
 - Mostly cover
 - Have literally just started writing own songs
 - Acoustic
- God
 - *'I was raised in a Christian family, so been brought up from a young age'*
 - Got baptized last April- it is more choice. It is like a declaration to that you are following God
 - Made the choice himself
 - Think it gives you good morals and values
- Food
 - Always eaten a lot and doesn't put any extra weight on
 - 'I just don't get fat'
 - Just eats as much as you can
- Having fun
 - 'I'm a very relaxed person...just try to have fun in whatever I do'