

Transitions Blog - Simon



A Londoner venturing North West

It was 10th September 2017. I had completed a level 3 extended diploma course on Vehicle Technology at my local college, Carshalton College, South West Greater London with the highest grade possible, three Distinction stars.

I had become bored with my home town of Sutton, Greater London and was seeking a new challenge by not only going to university, but take my first tentative steps at real independence.

On that September day, I was embarking on an adventure which has transformed my life. I drove my car, along with my belongings to my new surroundings, 200 miles away from home for me, in Bolton.

In all honesty, I was nervous, I felt like a stranger rolling into town because of the phrase “fear of the unknown.”

Although I had visited Bolton on an open day, I was unsure how I would fit in, with my distinctive South London accent.

I was also nervous because of my course, BSc (Hons) Motorsport Technology, being based in a brand new facility, the National Centre for Motorsport Engineering (NCME).



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It turned out there was no need for me to be worried. There were other students in the same situation as me, from other parts of the country and beyond.

The way I coped with getting to know an area I had not lived in before, by throwing myself into the challenge before the course officially started. I had a book that I had on reservation in a Waterstones in Deansgate, Manchester which I needed to collect on my very first day in the North West.

I was comforted by how helpful people were in guiding me in the right direction, to my destination. Now, two and a half years later, I am more confident in myself and have met some great individuals who I would never have met if it wasn't for me going to University in Bolton.

In addition, I am able to travel with confidence round the region, enabling me to gain a proper routine.



(Thank you to Simon for his contribution and sharing his University transition story)