

The social life of an apprentice

Luke Dorman talks about the fear of missing out when it comes to choosing an apprenticeship over university



Let's be honest, the one thing every person that starts an apprenticeship is worried about is missing out on the so called "Uni Lifestyle". The "uni lifestyle" has been massively glamorized as this rite of passage for young people; a fun fuelled 3 years of parties and new experiences. However since starting my apprenticeship I have found that I am not missing a thing!

From the get go, at my apprenticeship, I was introduced to around 10 other people who were also recently hired apprentices with the same fears and reservations as myself. Will I make friends at my new job? Will I have a fun social life still? Will I have to eat lunch on my own every day! Naturally when we all first met the conversation wasn't exactly flowing. We all started with the obvious pleasantries such as "where are you from?", "what department are you in?", "did you see that weather outside?" Naturally this doesn't sound anywhere near as exciting and adventurous as the "uni lifestyle".

However after spending more and more time together as a group we found a key starting point for forming a friendship. Our apprenticeships. As people all starting out as apprentices in the same organisation we were all facing the same trials and tribulations that go with the territory. Seeing each other became a support group. If ever we were feeling stressed out, tired, overworked, we could always just go to each other for support or even just to vent!

I think it was inevitable that we would eventually begin to really converse with each other. It didn't take long to have our own inside jokes and to start behaving like any group of young people would (despite the constraints of working in an office!).

There is also one important factor that meant we could all have an active social life. Money! As apprentices we are all getting paid so we can actually afford to do fun things. Whether it be going for drinks, meals, having a party or on the odd occasion bowling, we had the money to really go out and enjoy ourselves. It seems obvious but one of the best bits of an apprenticeship is earning money. It gives you the freedom to do lots of thing such as living on your own or running your own car. For me, my wages simply gave me the freedom to go out and enjoy myself!

From simple lunches together with nothing but small talk; we then began seeing each other outside of work, going for meals, doing things as friends rather than co-workers. So to anyone saying that you miss out on valuable life experience from the so called "uni lifestyle", I would say that an apprenticeship is what you make of it. If you make the effort to get to know the people around you, then they will too. There is no shortage of opportunity to have a fun, active social life. Who needs the "uni lifestyle"? I'd say apprentices don't miss a thing!