

Monthly Newsletter

**KAPLAN DIGITAL
PATHWAYS**

April 2024



Welcome to the SPRING edition: Blooming Amidst Challenges

As the vibrant hues of spring paint the world anew, we are thrilled to unveil the much-anticipated second edition of our newsletter! Spring, with its promise of renewal and growth, serves as the perfect backdrop for the inspiring stories and insightful advice featured in this edition.

Spring reminds us of the potential for beauty and growth, even in the face of challenges. It symbolizes resilience and encourages us to keep moving forward, no matter what obstacles we encounter. As Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote, "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

In this edition, we have featured articles written by students, sharing their experiences and wisdom. From overcoming academic struggles to finding balance in a busy world, each story offers valuable insights and practical advice that can help others who may be going through similar experiences.

We encourage you to read through the articles and take note of the advice given by your peers. Remember that you are not alone, and there is a community of support that is here for you. As you embark on this season of transformation and growth, we wish you the courage to embrace change, the resilience to overcome obstacles, and the determination to bloom, no matter what challenges you may face. We hope you find inspiration in every word, and wish you a happy spring filled with endless possibilities.

-College Services Team





The Beautiful Life in Nottingham

Hi, I'm **Natalie from Malaysia** and I'm studying Law at the University of Nottingham. If you're thinking about studying abroad here then you might be wondering 'What is it like to be an international student in Nottingham?', so I'm going to tell you a little bit about my experience and why I love this city.

The city offers the best of both worlds

I chose to study in Nottingham for quite a number of reasons — most of them quite specific! I wanted to live and study in an area that was quiet and peaceful but, at the same time, still had the elements of a bustling city life. So, personally, I feel like I hit the jackpot with Nottingham in terms of the location I wanted for my university life.

It is extremely affordable to live in Nottingham compared to other cities and you'll never run out of opportunities, whether it's for work or just to travel.

I think what makes Nottingham stand out is how the buildings look and the history behind them. One of my favourite buildings is a pub called Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem — some people say it's the oldest inn in England!

Expect the unexpected

Two things come to mind when I think about what surprised me about being an international student in Nottingham.

The first is underrated in my opinion, and it's the incredible amount of support I received from the University and the College. The second is the wide range of communities that you can join — the most surprising one for me was definitely the Dog Walking Society!

The things I love most about being an international student in Nottingham are the unexpected opportunities and the people you meet. I learn something new every day and it honestly amazes me. It might be something small like learning how to buy a ticket for the tram, or something bigger like meeting people and experiencing new cultures.

International student life in Nottingham

I am currently studying a degree in law. I'll admit that I originally chose this subject because I enjoy reading, writing and challenging myself with new knowledge, so I figured law would be the best option! As I head into my final year, I am honestly glad I picked law as my major because I would not want it any other way!

Studying abroad can be a stressful process so my advice if you're thinking about becoming an international student in Nottingham, or anywhere, is that you take frequent breaks and reflect. The best time to do this is the moment you start to feel overwhelmed. You can write down all of your thoughts and look back on them when you are taking your break.

My second suggestion would definitely be to trust your gut. I completely understand that it can be a terrifying experience to be so out of your comfort zone, but trust me on this, the knowledge and experience you gain will be invaluable!

-Fiona.

WELCOME TO FC310

023 2 BULLETIN BOARD



Our Bulletin Board describes our study journey and experience at Kaplan Digital Pathways! We have learned and grown and decided to share a part of our journey with you. We believe sharing is caring and we hope you enjoy it and learn too.

* OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Challenges:

- Making sure that my citations were correct. I overcame this problem by using websites such as Scribbr.com to double check that my citations were correct. (S)
- One challenge was not having enough time to find sources for certain assessments. After this I made sure to manage my time and I also let go of the bad habit, which is procrastination. (Celine)
- A challenge I had was finding relevant and academic sources. However, I started using search engines like ResearchGate and Google Scholar to look for sources and it helped me find great sources for my assignments. (A)

Support:

- I would say the biggest support was the tutors. (Celine)
- The tutors who gave lots of feedback really helped me as I was able to improve my essays. (S)
- My FC310 tutor helped me a lot. Akin to an exemplary role model.
- My tutors. Everyone is so nice, and some even take their time during their break to go through my work to give feedback.



ADVICE TO FRESHERS *

- Ask as many questions as possible in class if you do not understand something. Asking questions will enhance your understanding and help improve your grades. (S)
- Make sure to have fun, but also make time for your studies, because there is time for everything, and do not forget to make friends while studying at Kaplan. (Celine)
- Make sure to always use the feedback given in formatives to guide yourselves and improve your summatives. (A)
- Never be too stressed or panic, a good mental health always relates to a good result. You can be nervous or stressed, but never let your feelings override everything. Although assessments can be stressful, they are the best tasks before you go to the university. So don't forget to take a break when you are too stressed. (Vivien)
- That it is okay to struggle and make mistakes, because you will always get a chance to improve, overcome some difficulties and you also get to learn from these mistakes and avoid them. (Celine)
- It is a different style of learning compared to what you are used to, do not worry and always consult your teachers, they are willing to help. (Pash)



TIP OF THE DAY

Learning Experience

- I learned how to get confident as we always had discussions in class, and we also had to answer questions. (Celine)
- I was taught skills that are very useful for my future studies, for example academic writing, speaking skills, and computer skills. (Celine)

Study Strategies

- Plan ahead: Planning your time well and ensuring that you have enough time to complete each subject's assignment. (Pash)
- Taking notes: always take notes in class and always write down what you should do as homework. Always come prepared to class. Never be late for a class and if you're late let the tutor know. (Celine)
- I struggled with my time management quite a bit at the start and I think making a plan and tackling the submissions according to deadlines really helped. (Kiren)
- Plan ahead: I would suggest making a schedule for everyday and also make sure to check your timetable each week as it may change. It can be difficult to follow the schedule at first, but once you get used to it, your life gets easier. (Celine)
- Assessments: I would advise against starting assessments close to the deadline. Because most tasks require time to search sources and write drafts. You could spend 1–2 hours a day completing one part. Finally, there is enough time to revise your assessments and improve. (Manyu)



Memories Bring Back Memories

Surprising Discovery

- Managing my time: Time management is very important in this course as you do not want your work to pile up. (S)
- I learned that I had a lot of potential especially with my assessments, because I was sceptical of how good I would do in it. (Celine)

Nice Memories

- My tutors always tried to make the class fun by having an exciting task, playing games related to a topic, or just making jokes. (Celine)
- I will miss the free time I had during the day because of the way the classes were scheduled. (S)
- Breakout rooms: I will miss going to the breakout rooms, where we had to discuss a certain topic, but if we had more time we would talk about other relevant things like assessments or classes we had. (Celine)

Proverb of the month

by Nomsa Naidoo

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for one day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime".

Meaning: Teaching a skill, rather than simply procuring the reward, is the best way to help achieve lifelong success.



My View on LeBron James

By Zhang Pengyu



I want to share my view on my favorite basketball superstar, LeBron James. LeBron James' basketball skills and tactical wisdom make him stand out in the basketball industry. His speed, strength, and agility enable him to perform excellently in any position. His shooting, dribbling, and passing skills make him unbeatable on the offensive end, while his defensive awareness and strength make him a top tier defensive player. His comprehensiveness enables him to play a crucial role in any stage and position of the game.

However, James' greatness lies not only in his basketball skills. His leadership and competitive spirit are also key factors for his success. He always stands up at critical moments and leads his team to win the game. His determination and perseverance make him stand firm in adversity, and his spirit of victory always makes him eager to win more championships. Off the basketball court, James also demonstrates his leadership skills. His "I PROMISE" school is his commitment to the community, and he hopes to change children's lives through education. His charitable work and social activities demonstrate his commitment to social justice. He not only focuses on basketball, but also pays attention to the development of society.

James's success story has brought us many inspirations. He showed us that through hard work and determination, we can achieve our dreams. He showed us that as public figures, we can use our influence to change society. He showed us that we can become leaders both on and off the basketball court. Overall, LeBron James is a true basketball superstar and social leader. His basketball skills and leadership make him stand out in the basketball industry, while his social activities and charitable work demonstrate his commitment and attention to society. He is our role model, and his stories inspire us to pursue our dreams and become better people.



Upcoming Events



Join us for Trivia Time, an exciting event where you can connect, compete, and expand your knowledge! Test your trivia skills while making new friends progressing to the same university as you. Don't miss out on the chance to win a prize and kickstart your university journey with a blast!

Ensure you check your email regularly because the date will be announced soon. Watch out!

Join Chat Café

*to sharpen your English
vocabulary in a fun way.*

Every Tuesday 2:00-2:45pm (UK Time)





Thank you for reading!

See you in May!

**DO YOU WANT TO BE A
PART OF THE MAY EDITION?**

Do you want to share your
ideas, stories and great work
with the Kaplan Community?

Then, send your submissions to >>>

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