

## Transcript of exit interview with Izzy Grint

DAVID: Hi Izzy, welcome to your philosophy exit interview. My first question is, can you remember your first week of university and what was it like?

IZZY: Yes, I definitely can remember. I would be surprised if anyone couldn't. It's such a strange week in your life. It was so much fun. Warwick were really good at putting on tons of events, so I never felt like I didn't really know what to do, stuff like that. The first day was bizarre, but when my parents dropped me off, left me in my room, I think all of my friends have said there's no feeling quite like that. It's really difficult to put into words, but I just felt so, not alone in a sad way, but just free, just so independent. But I went to my kitchen straight away, started speaking to my flatmates, and then from there it was just so much fun. It was really really good.

DAVID: Were your flatmates your kind of main social circle, then? Were they the people you ended up sort of sticking with? Or were there more?

IZZY: So, I was told a lot before university that your flat probably won't be your core group of social friends. I obviously spent lots of time with my flat, especially in the first few weeks. But I was really prepared to go out and seek people from clubs and from my degree and so on. But in the end, I think my flat were actually, or at least for part of them, formed one of my closest groups at Uni, and we all say that it's really funny that we all met on the first night, because so much of the time people say that isn't that much of a thing that you keep friends with people you went out with on your first night of uni, but we all did, which is actually really nice, I think.

DAVID: So once you started studying, what would you say was the best philosophy module that you studied?

IZZY: Well, you know my answer to this! All the open days I've done, I've always said Philosophy of Religion was definitely my favorite module. (Yeah, David runs that module!) I was potentially going to do philosophy and theology, and I'm actually really glad I ended up doing just philosophy. There were lots of components of theology I, to be honest, wasn't actually that interested in, and philosophy of religion was definitely my main interest, and so the fact that there was just one module where I could do all of that was so much fun. And obviously you did it so well. It was always so engaging and I loved going to the seminars and debating in such a pleasant manner about these things. Uhm yeah, I absolutely loved every second of it.

DAVID: Thank you very much. I'm glad. So what is your favorite memory from your time at university?

IZZY: This is a hard one because obviously there are so many good memories, and choosing one standout is tricky because, saying my best, it's sort of the whole thing and I know that's the cop out answer! From nights out there were great memories and the next morning when I'd go into my friend's room, we'd all laugh about all the silly things we did the night before. But I think my favorite memory was probably varsity, which I in first year joined mixed hockey. I actually ended

up doing ladies hockey lots more than this, and when I was in my second year mixed hockey did their first ever varsity against Coventry University, and we won and it was so fun and so exciting to start something new like a new tradition that I know in the next years people will end up doing. Yeah, that was really really cool.

DAVID: Didn't you have your last practice with your hockey team recently? Was that sad or bittersweet?

IZZY: I would say bittersweet is definitely the right word to describe it, especially as this year has been so unusual, so finishing I imagine people always ask how is leaving and what's it like and that sort of thing, and this year the answers might be quite different. Because finishing training I felt so happy I got to do training, because we didn't have any training in term two at all.

DAVID: Sure

IZZY: But it was also really sad because it didn't feel like a normal leaving. I've had all my training and done all the hockey this year and now it's put behind me. I sort of feel like I'm coming back in September and I'm not. I need to get that in my brain, but it was lovely and it was really fun to play with everyone one last time.

DAVID: Nice. What is the most important thing you learned from going to university? Other than all the wonderful philosophy!

IZZY: Most of it, it's about people. I think I had this idea in my head that people at school were one way and that people at uni would be another way, and then once you graduate everyone at work is another way. And that's actually not true. Realistically, nobody knows what they're doing and everyone is just getting along as best as they can. And I think I thought people would be more grown up than they are at school, which for most of the time they are. But sometimes they're not and I think that was a good thing to learn now at university before I enter the world of work than it would be later on.

DAVID: And what do you know now that you wish you knew when you started university?

IZZY: Well, one of the things was I wish I had spent more time with my flat at the beginning, 'cause I think I wrote them off a little bit because so many people had said that they don't end up being your best friends, and they actually did end up being my best, so I sort of wish I could get that time back, but I equally I don't regret it because I made so many other friends from other clubs and societies that I feel really fortunate to have lots of friends in different groups, if you see what I mean. The other thing I would say, which is academic, is that Word has automatic referencing. I think I did find that in my first year, but I found it towards the end and if I found it from the beginning, it would have saved me a lot of time. So top tip for all those starting out!

DAVID: Yeah, that is a good practical tip. I still haven't got my head around referencing software, I'm still kind of manually putting things in, but that's a very good tip. I should take that

up myself! So what do you think you'll miss most about university? I've got a feeling this will be to do with your friends as well.

IZZY: So, my boyfriend actually graduated last year, so I asked him this—he's sat next to me right now, COVID life!—and he said it's the freedom, and that's obviously not to say that once you leave uni you suddenly aren't free, it's just when you are working nine to five Monday to Friday, it is very different to the lifestyle you have at university. He said it was sort of a perfect balance between school and work, where at school you have sort of no freedom, with people telling you what to do all the time, but in the working world you're an adult and you have access to all these things, but you sometimes don't have the opportunity to do them, whereas at university you have all the freedom and all the opportunity to do everything. So I would definitely say make the most of it while you can.

DAVID: Turning to the future now, what are your plans and goals for after university?

IZZY: So I have a graduate job, I'm very fortunate to have that link up, and it starts at the end of September. I'm going to be a data product consultant, which might seem strange from philosophy, but actually I think doing philosophy really helped me in the interview process because the logic involved in philosophy is so similar to that involved in coding and data, and that sort of thing. And honestly, if you do a degree and you're bright enough to get a really good degree, especially from Warwick University, I think you can go down any path. I'm not sure people really realize that, especially going into philosophy. And they say, 'are you going to be a philosopher?', and I'm like, 'well, maybe if I want, that's great', but you can do really whatever you want. And then after that—so that's for two years, my graduate job—after that, I still have no idea. I don't know if I want to be a data analyst full time forever, but I'm doing it because it's the opportunity I have now and I'm excited to see where it will take me further down the line.

DAVID: Amazing, well good luck and thank you very much for your philosophy exit interview.

IZZY: That's OK. Thank you for having me. Thank you!