

## **The Sheffield College TEF Student Submission**

### **Video Submission**

See link:

### **Written Submission**

#### **1. Approach to evidence-gathering**

For the TEF student submission, I wanted to gather evidence that was a true representation of what the student experience is like across the higher education sector of The Sheffield College. My first step was contacting various student and inviting them along to interviews. I decided to visit City campus as well as the Hillsborough campus in which I study at, so that I could obtain a broader perception of the student experience. Each campus is home to a variety of higher education courses. Overall, The Sheffield College is home to over 15 higher education courses. I arranged to visit the City Campus where I later went on to speak to students from the FdSc Bakery & Patisserie Technology.

I am currently studying the NCTJ (National Council for Trainee Journalists) course at The Sheffield College, which is a higher education course.

, the support it provides whilst being passionate about the progression I have made towards my career through The Sheffield College. I am also

. Due to my journalistic background, I decided that for the submission I wanted to produce a video that would contain in-depth conversations with students across a selection of the higher education courses. My first step was contacting various student and inviting them along to interviews. I knew that some of these interviews would be beneficial in the format of a group discussion. Accordingly, I arranged for from FdSc Professional Practice in Health & Social Care to speak to me together. I felt that this would bring variation to the video and prompt further discussion points surrounding subjects such as: support they receive, their experience on the course and student outcomes - how the higher education course is contributing to their personal career prospects. I had also arranged a number of other conversations to have with from other higher education courses.

#### **2. Student experience**

My findings regarding the student experience displayed that, firstly, the majority of tutors are experienced in the relevant field. A for the FdA

Public Services: Policing Studies, explained to me that her tutor had many years experience in the field of policing and as a result, she found that it was inspiring for students on her course. Following that, I found that all students I spoke to felt that support was extremely accessible. From being able to email tutors at any time to receive support on anything they are struggling with and being able to have one to one meetings, to specific support sectors in the college itself that are readily available. One student told me about how he continues to receive support for his disabilities and has technology and procedures in place to help him achieve. Another factor was students feeling a sense of community amongst the higher education courses at The Sheffield College. One student explained that they collaborated amongst older students to learn from their experiences. Another finding was how useful the access to equipment and resources were. As equipment is expensive, it's vital that students have access to an extensive range of equipment to use for assignments and learning exercises. The Sheffield College has state-of-the-art spaces such as: photography studios, recording studios, TV studios and dental laboratories.

### **3. Student Outcomes**

Regarding student outcomes, I found that most of the higher education courses make work experience mandatory, realising that having experience is crucial for being prepared for working in specific fields after education. Some courses require 200 hours of work placement over the two years of studying the course. What's more is that tutors provide help with finding placements using their own contacts or helping with application processes. Students realise how important it is to go into the world of work with such work experience on your CV. Many students I spoke to plan to do their foundation degree at The Sheffield College and go on to complete their degree at nearby universities and believe it's an incredible route to acquire a degree. One student explained that they felt getting a degree through The Sheffield college was better than the typical university routes as they receive more support through one on one time with staff as classes prove to be smaller. Through this TEF submission work I have found that students feel confident in their journey of going on to employment and achieving their career prospects.

### **TEF Video Submission Transcript**

NCTJ Journalism

Participant 1 : My name's My journey at The Sheffield College  
started when I studied journalism and social media communications at  
doing a higher education  
course, which is NCTJ, which is the National Council of Training Journalists.

This means that after I've done this course, I will be qualified as a trainee journalist, which is the last step in my journey to get to where I would like to be in terms of my career prospects. And The Sheffield College has always provided me with a really good experience first of all.

In the field I want to go into, work experience is one of the most important things, and it was actually only a couple of weeks ago that I had a week's placement with the [redacted] so that really benefited me in particular because I did [redacted] which meant that I didn't get to do too much writing.

So being able to go to the [redacted] and write in a professional surrounding has really benefited me as a person and of course will help me when I go out there and get my foot in the door in terms of journalism.

And I've always found that in the college, the Tutors are really inspiring, extremely supportive and really push you to the best of your ability. At the moment, we have we have a few students on my course, [redacted] for the NCTJ and we have quite a lot of online students and we've got a few students and they also come in [redacted].

And it's really good because we do get a lot of one on one time with our Tutor and she ensures that everything we do is in-line with where we want to go into the workplace.

So for example, I want to go more into video journalism and maybe a bit more broadcast, my options are quite open at the minute. So my next placement is going to be with [redacted]. She's made sure that I've had a lot of one on one time with our video journalism tutor.

Other people and [redacted] on our course really wants to get into sports. So a lot of [redacted] content and stuff is sports related. And yeah, the Tutors are just really supportive of our desires in the future. They really just want to help us get to where we want to be.

Another really important thing on our higher education course is of course equipment. So obviously equipment is really expensive, but we have an amazing tech room so we can loan out tripods, we can book out and we have studios where we can do podcasts.

We have a big TV studio, which is where we are now, and we have the lighting, mics. Everything that we could need is very accessible and that's so important when it comes to doing our assignments.

So one thing about the higher education courses here is that you'll often find that the class sizes are smaller, which means that we do get a lot more one on one time, which means we can sit and talk about our plans and our career prospects. And, and you do get that really close knit feel. And amongst the whole of the higher education courses, there is definitely a sense of community.

We do find that sometimes, you know, we will work collaboratively with, you know, we might go and do a story on something the performing arts are doing and things like

that. So it is just a really great feel amongst the higher education here at The Sheffield College.

*So if you'd just like start by telling me your name and what course it is that you're studying.*

FD Policing Studies

Participant 2 : My name is and I do the Foundation Degree for Policing Studies at The Sheffield College.

P1 How are you finding it?

P2 : It is very interesting, it's hard in some areas but the college helps you out a lot.

So does the teachers, they always offer like just to email them and then they'll give you meetings after just to help you easily. My course aims to link us into, they try to mix us together so we could get extra help from the older years. They introduced us, they did a full day, and then they helped us to learn things like to use scribbr that you'll need for referencing, Google Scholar that you'll need for help to get the references, they're good with that.

P1 Okay, so what sort of things are you hoping to go into in the future after the course?

P2 I'm hoping to obviously study the third year at Sheffield Hallam and then after this probably hopefully get a 2:1 and go to study a Masters and then apply to be a detective or something in that area, in the criminal justice area.

P1 So what sort of facilities and, I don't know, maybe equipment or things like work placements, things that will help you achieve the career goals?

P2 Well for the second year here at The Sheffield College, they offer work experience like it's required.

So you have to do at least 100 hours for the year. You can do it in whatever area, like in a homeless shelter, as long as it's something you can link back to the criminal justice system. That's obviously going to help you get a better understanding of what you can do.

So, you don't have to do this course and get into policing, you can help them work in support for victims of abuse or something. You can do that, or you can just do anything like that in just the criminal justice system.

P1 Okay, so in terms of the work placement, have you received like support trying to source placements and maybe applying for things, things like that?

P2 They say, they told us when to apply with one of the best hirers, which obviously is in the summer this year, because obviously it's the second year placement.

They're also going to be giving links to places and then with obviously with linking into to the older years, which is what they thought would be the best thing, a lot of them have giving us key ideas and stuff, which we wouldn't have really got it if they haven't introduced us to them.

P1 Do you find that the tutors may have like contacts and things like that to get you in to places?

P2 Yeah, actually, what's good about my course is one of my teachers  
, so he's got loads of experience helping us source different placements and stuff like that.

P1 Do you find that with your Tutor having had that experience, does that inspire you?

P2 Yeah, because he tells us a lot of stories, a lot of them, what he's gone through as a  
, and that just makes you want to do it more. Just all the stuff that tells you like how he's helped around the world and stuff.

P1 Do you feel like you have been part of a community at the college in terms of with the higher education students?

P2 I do think they implemented that a lot, especially in my course with the older years.

And then for like the first week, as soon as I got here, all the staff came in that I'd need, like the bursary people, the wellbeing staff, they all told us where they were, whether situated in the building, their emails, how we need to get in contact and just everything like that, they've been really good and supportive for us all.

P1 And just generally speaking, what is it like to be a student at university level here at The Sheffield College?

P2 It's hard. I'm not going to lie, but the work that you put in is the work that you get out and the support that you get is great.

And you just, you know, as soon as you've done the course and your teaches help you, you just see your life plan set out and they're really good with that. They help you when you're stuck, they help you've been struggling with like anything, you just have to pop an email to them and they'll give you a meeting and they're really, really good is my course and the college seems to be as well.

P1 So in terms of the course, what does it provide you with in terms of getting you prepared for going into the workplace?

FD Professional Practice: Health and Social Care

Participant 3 : We've had different situations, so obviously with the assignments it gives you a key insight of what we've got to do, but we've got a lot of placement hours we have to do.

So we have to do 200 hours to do, so it can either be paid or it could be volunteering. So for myself, I'm at a  
care service. So for us, there's a lot of complex needs, learning difficulties and disabilities.

So I now deal with all ages.

P1 And do you feel that that has set you up and prepared you?

P3 Yeah. Nailed on. Yeah. You get a clear insight of what's going to be coming in the next few years to come.

P1 And how about you?

Participant 4 Yeah, the same. You get a lot of skills and you develop them skills to implement in the workplace. And just by having that knowledge, it can help you with your academics, writing your assignments. And then and I think the placement has supported us on the progression with the course. Yeah.

P1 So what, what other types of support do you think you get being on a higher education course at The Sheffield College?

P3 For us, especially for myself , I've got a lot of help especially from the , compared to what you get in a normal college setting when you've got Level 1, Level 2, Level 3.

For myself, you get the support from another organisation so it provides you with technology, computers, the lot. So it's really, really good. who I have is brilliant. Anything like your assignment work to read through is unbelievable and it's a brilliant thing to have for anyone who has . Yeah.

P1 So do you get help in terms of and equipment?

P3 Yeah, yeah. So for myself, sometimes I get

P1 Wow, that's amazing.

P3 It's not too bad.

P1 So speaking more generally, what has been your experience of studying a higher education course at The Sheffield College as opposed to, you know, going down the route of doing a normal university degree do you think?

P3 For myself, I know it seems a bit daft, , I'd have gone and done a university degree.

But the option when I spoke to the Level 3 teachers at the time when I would be applying for the course, it's a lot more, not easier, but it's more calm. There's more time to do things and everything, and for myself as a person what's struggling with stuff like that, I couldn't think of anything better.

Yeah, I'm relaxed. There's nothing in the back of my head thinking, oh Christ, I've got to do all this in a certain amount of time. I've got the time to do it in my own space or my own pace. Yeah, and speed. And I think just the same as well.

P1 Do you feel like you get a sense of community amongst the higher education courses and in terms of your Tutors, do you have a lot of one on one time? Tell me about that.

P4 Yeah, you got a lot of one to one support from your lecturers.

P3 24/7 as well.

P4 Yeah. You know, you're more like a family. Yeah. You're not just at a random university when you hardly know any of your classmates and you don't really know any of your teachers, where it's more awkward to ask for support.

P3 It's like being your mate, isn't it?

P4 Yeah I mean everyone in our class just asks everybody for support.

P3 There's not even a stupid question to ask really.

P4 Yeah, everyone's just kind of there for each other. I think because it's smaller at college, everyone's a lot more comfortable.

P3 Especially at the universities where it's huge, you know, and there's thousands of people.

P1 Do you feel like you've received a lot of support on this higher education course? Obviously it's a Foundation Degree, do you feel like it has set you up for your personal career prospects?

FD Bakery and Patisserie

Participant 5 : Yeah definitely. I feel like maybe before doing the Foundation Degree, I never thought I'd be able to go and do my Level 6. I just didn't have those skills, but also the Tutors have allowed me to feel confident in myself to be able to progress in to the industry.

P1 So if you could just tell me more about the facilities and the equipment that is provided and how that enables you to do well on this course.

Participant 6 There's two rooms; so we've got the bakery and the patisserie room. They've both got certain things that allow you to bake and make certain products.

You've got the ovens, you've got the mixers, you've got the tempering chocolate machines and loads of different facilities.

P5 And it also is a lot of things that you'll find in the industry, so it's preparing us for what we might face when we get jobs in factories or even independent bakeries and probably around the world as well.