

The following article was created for My Guide to Uni App, an app made by students for students

New city, new goals, new friends

Starting your first year at university can be quite exciting for some and scary for others.

Leaving the comfort of your home to *technically* study a degree that will be relevant for your future will have you questioning things you never had in mind before.

For example, where to stay? But it's the kind of question where you want to make sure the place you're staying in will have people you can vibe with whilst giving you the opportunity to meet other people within the same building.

I remember that's exactly what my thought process was like months before taking a three hour flight to Sheffield.

Three years have passed since then and I can safely tell you that all the people I've met during my first year are people I haven't seen from the moment I moved out to my second year house.

Through Youtube videos and Facebook groups, I decided to move to Endcliffe because of the campus vibe it gave me – I was aware of the 20-30 min walk to any university building and thought it was a reasonable amount of time to commute.

Well, it's not – but that's a story for another time.

When it comes to making friends you might have heard people saying you *have* to come out of your comfort zone and take the first step. However, I'm here to tell you that you don't necessarily have to go through all of that because there are many ways for you to build a, hopefully, genuine friendship.

1. Flatmates
2. Societies
3. Sports
4. Part-time jobs
5. 'Network'

Flatmates

I'd consider anyone who becomes buddies with their flatmates a lucky person because it's definitely not easy to live with someone who has different habits from you that may or may not bother you and also get along with.

Societies

Joining a society will assure you that you meet like-minded people who have similar interests to yours, whether that's through your nationality, your hobbies or a new skill you want to learn.

Sports

Without having first-hand experience of joining a sports society, I've heard enough times how team players, especially those playing competitively, are close to each other, so if you are a sportsperson, friendship will develop without you even forcing anything.

Part-time job

Opposite to the sports experience, I've met my closest friends through my part-time work. If you had to ask me how exactly that happened I wouldn't be able to tell you because I genuinely don't know how we went from strangers to *besties* in a work environment where you'd always get split up once caught chatting to your colleague.

Network

This is a special section as you can't really force this. You might go out with a couple of friends who introduce you to a new group, and who knows, you might click with that particular group a lot more than the main one.

Indirectly, that could be linked to networking and as someone who had drama with a former friend because I became more friendly with a person that they knew before I did, don't let that kind of situation stop you from getting to know them.

These are the top tips I would recommend to any first year student who, like me, are more on the introverted side but still want to try and make friends.