



What was university like for me with Dyslexia?

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I didn't know I was dyslexic until I went to study Digital Media at Edinburgh Napier University. Somehow, I got through primary and secondary school without knowing.

I completed my first year of university and then was told I should get tested because "my practical coursework was great, but my essays and written work was very poor".

Once I got assessed and told I was dyslexic, I still didn't really understand what that meant. I was told that I would get some help in the way of a laptop with Claro and other software installed, I was given a Zoom H2 Recorder so I could record lectures, and I was told that – when/if I reach my final year of university – I would get a proof-reader to help with reading my dissertation (16,000 words, it was one of the hardest things ever).

My dissertation, along with any other written coursework, was so hard because I didn't understand essays – I didn't like to waffle on. I just typed what needed to be typed and got to the point.

I always struggled to focus at University, just like in any other school environment before that. I always learned by doing and by getting hands-on; a lot of 'figuring it out'. I particularly liked being able to create and play with software. That's where I found my love for Editing, which is now my career. (And it's probably why I like gaming too!).

I guess it isn't until after you're finished something that you can take stock and look back. At the time, I had no idea that being dyslexic would affect me a lot in my adult life and the working world. Some things are always going to be difficult, but being dyslexic and having to find different ways to do things has meant I am very good at problem-solving. I know I'll always figure out a way.