

# Meet Our Disability Champion



## Name

Aisha Hussain

## Institution

Sheffield Hallam University

## Studying

Radiotherapy & Oncology

## Route into higher education

GCSEs, A-levels, Foundation Year

## Disability

Type 1 Diabetes

## What support did you receive from school/college about going to university?

I was assigned a Careers Adviser, who discussed the range of different pathways into higher education with me.

## What support do you receive from your institution now?

With the university, a learning contract has been put in place which allows me to access the support I may need. For example: negotiating deadline extensions on assignments and extra time on exams.

There is a Student Support Adviser for students with disabilities who are available should a student need support. I also have an Academic Adviser who is there to advise and support me with my studies.

## **What did your parents/carers/supporters need to know when you applied? (or what were their concerns?)**

With my course specifically going on a placement was a big part of it. My parents main concern was that I would be assigned a placement site too far out. My parents also had concerns on how the university would support me with my disability.

I attended open days with my parents which eased their concerns, as they were able learn more about the courses I was interested in and seek out what support there is for students with disabilities/long-term health conditions.

## **What advice would you give parents/carers/supporters who are helping their young person consider or apply to higher education?**

I would advise you do your research thoroughly, attend open days and if you have any doubts or worries, then do get in contact with whoever is responsible for the course.

It is also important to make your disability/long-term health condition known so you are able to receive the best possible support tailored for your needs.

## **Did you have any concerns about applying to higher education? If so, what were they?**

My main concern was, would I adjust to university life, having all this independence and how would managing my condition come into this? I knew university was a big step and I was worried if the level of support I would receive would be anything like what I had received in secondary school.

## **What would you say to your 18 year old self?**

I would say don't limit your opportunities because of your worries. If you do have worries and concerns then always make them known to an expert or someone with experience. They can offer you advice and help put your mind at ease.

## What advice would you give to someone who has a disability about progressing into higher education?

Don't ever let your disability get in the way of you progressing into higher education. There is a lot of support out there for everyone, you just need to ask.

Always make your disability known so that you are supported. This will only allow for you to reach your highest potential.

## What is your top tip?

Do plenty of research and keep your options open!



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