Hepp Disability Profile

Name: Boris

My course: Games Design at Barnsley College

My disability and how it impacts me

I struggle with a physical disability, that affects my knees, my muscles and causes my back to be painful most days. I've had surgery and although it has improved my condition it hasn't cured it. The impact on my life has been huge, I've been unable to pursue my dream career as a Technician, as the job would require me to stand up for long periods of time, which I often find painful.

My disability is complicated, it initially started when I developed pains in my feet and ended up in the Emergency Department. I was told I had Enthesitis and was encouraged to change jobs. The changes in my circumstances caused me anxiety about my future career options, as I need a job where I am predominantly sat down. A year after I was diagnosed, I went to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), where they found something behind my knees that wasn't working correctly. I was told I needed surgery; otherwise I would end up in a wheelchair.

Support/adaptions I receive

- A comfortable chair and table so that I can concentrate on my work for long periods of time
- Special software to help with dictating, talking, correcting grammar, as well as a phone charger and a microphone to record lectures
- Mental and emotional support

How the support helped me to succeed

As soon as I disclosed my disability I was immediately provided additional support, this instantly made me feel less anxious about enrolling on a higher education course. I've been given emotional support every step of the journey, which has made me feel like I fit in with everyone else and helped me to forget about my condition for a while.

Top tips!

- Chase your dreams and passions, you have nothing to lose by giving things a go!
- Don't be afraid to start new challenges.
- People are friendly and open to help in times of need. Make sure you ask for help.
- Apply for a course you are interested in straight away so that you don't miss any opportunities.