

# Which University Life are you opting for? By Alessia Zammit

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As I am about to start the final year of my full-time studies at the University of Malta, I cannot but look back at the decade that strengthened my personality and allowed me to reflect on my values. An experience which I will never forget is a particular lecture in the first few weeks of my law course. I was following a lecture in the LT building, when a group of commerce students who were buscading and stopped by at University, flocked into our lecture room. Undoubtedly, they passed teasing comments to us, law students; a tradition at University, but not me who had just commenced the law course and would be graduating with those commerce students on that same evening. A few I had spoken to before the day, others I just recognised by sight. I wondered if the same would happen at the end of my law course. Would I be unable to know the name of all the students with whom I shared so many lecture rooms? Who is to blame? Me, other students, the lecturers, the faculty? At the moment, I was sure that something was wrong with the system but today I think that what is wrong is not only the system but the routine of studies which we sometimes get entrapped in.

I say this, after going through a remarkable experience in the interactive lectures offered during the credit on Advocacy Skills. I did not hesitate to apply for such credits as I had always longed for interactive sessions, where we would not just sit and listen, but are encouraged to voice our thoughts and engage in a discussion. I also did not hesitate to apply for moot courts which are very important for our

training as lawyers. In these moot courts, we learn how to carry out extensive research, organize our arguments on paper and communicate them in a court room. Credits such as Child Law and Gender and the Law have also been taught with dedication and through innovative ways of tutoring. I look back at my university years and I know that I have done my very best to improve not only my knowledge on the law but also my personality. What I find surprising is that I have met many students who are not at all interested in applying for such practical credits. I surely think that it is easier to choose optional credits that require us to sit and just listen; then reproduce what is said by our lecturers in an assignment or exam paper but that is not how I wanted my University life to be. While I think that more law credits should offer practical training and encourage discussion, our faculty has started to change its mentality and is offering a few credits that allow us to improve our practical skills as lawyers. Such systems of tutoring are also beneficial as we build new friendships and come to know our lecturers better. I have nothing but praise for this step forward in the law course but I hope that the faculty extends such practices. I also hope that it will be encouraged to improve the system of lecturing by finding support from us students. If many prefer to just sit and listen, then we cannot argue that the system is wrong. Students have an important role in shaping their course of studies and I would therefore hope that many of us would be willing to look at University life not just as a sit and study experience but as an experience that shapes our character and prepares us for our profession.