

Transcript

December 2, 2025, 3:13PM

□ **Claire Undy** started transcription



Claire Undy 0:03

OK, hopefully that's working.

Thank you both for taking part and I am going to try and keep it really brief. So as I've said, I set up the Interchange project for the research that I'm doing for my Pg Cert, which is around student experiences of belonging within the course, and I'm hoping to use the observations I've made during the sessions and the information I've gathered from the interviews to make improvements to the programme. So your support is really valuable for that, thank you. I've turned on the transcript and recording to capture our conversation and before setting up the meeting, I've sent you a consent form to check you're happy with me using this information in my study, I won't use your name or your image. And do I have your consent to do that? (Inaudible: yes) Yes, I do. Thank you. OK. All right, so my first question is please, could you talk a little about why you chose to sign up for the Interchange project?

Student S (name redacted)

Yes, for me, I just like I do like helping people and I imagine if I were in year one, if I had this opportunity to interact with and talk to the years of third years- I kind of do wish I'd had that. But also it's it's a nice experience to maybe improve my CV, right?

Claire

What about you, Leila?

Student P (name redacted)

Because like I first said [interruption] my experience is that in uni in the past, what I struggled with was that I didn't have a community of people that could help me and you are very lost at the beginning. You move out of your house you are alone at the start of these new things, and to have like a community that can guide you through the things I think it was what I needed at the moment and I didn't have. So obviously if it's given me the chance to be part of something like that, I feel like I have to

because when it was up to me to be like... at 18 years old, they really like, wanted something. Someone like to look after me like a tutor. And I didn't have it. So if I have the chance like to contribute, that I will, even though if I am a shy person, so I still like reticent to like, do those kind of things. But it's also good for me like to open up like to learn how to open up and share space with all the people and also like what the teaching experience, because obviously like with the type of degree we get, we might end up teaching... like it is like a job that you could do after an art degree? So it's good to start already like looking in for that.

Claire

Right. Thank you very much.

Student S (name redacted)

I feel similar. I just felt like it would be really nice to interact and like, know new people that have like similar disciplines, practices and it's actually really inspiring to see you know the first years because they're quite immature. I mean, most of them probably are in their practice and that's what I said in the form that you will see. Like their work come from quite an intuitive place, and sometimes that could be really inspiring.

Claire

Yeah. Yeah. Great. Thank you. Well, I guess that leads into my second question, which was how you found the experience of working with the first year so far.

Student P (name redacted)

They seem like a really good class, so beside everything like it's good, like as an artist to see like what these other people are doing and like to have the chance to listen directly from them. They show you their projects. The inspiration behind the meaning, that gives more knowledge, like inspiration for us as well. Like first of all, as art students like you get inspired by what you see. Get ideas.

Claire

Yeah, definitely. Great.

Student S (name redacted)

So what was the question?

Claire

It was just how you found the experience of working with the first years so far?

Student S (name redacted)

OK, because I'm also kind of an introverted person as well. It does cautious me to be to socialise more and I think that's a good experience for me. But also it's really nice to see how having... because I do feel like they're your group like in comparison to ours... they have a bit more sense of community and it's nice to see how that changed. Maybe like their practice? I mean, it's nice to see them, like, just like talking casually like friends. And like in comparison like our year group is relatively quiet.

Student P (name redacted)

Yeah.

Student S (name redacted)

But it's nice to see how that impacted their practice in a positive way. You can tell.

Claire

Yeah. Brilliant. Thank you. OK, so my next question is I'm interested to hear whether you feel that you belong at Camberwell and whether this has changed over the time that you've been here?

Student P (name redacted)

Like what Linda said, that we kind of had like we struggled as a class to come together. I don't completely feel like that sense of belonging to Camberwell, like I feel I've had a more independent journey. I went through personal growth and like skills that I need to acquire, so I don't really like have that sense of like belonging if I have to be honest.

Claire

Yeah.

Student P (name redacted)

It's more like a very, like, personal thing that I'm doing, like for myself like.

Claire

Sure. Yes.

Student S (name redacted)

My experience is quite similar to that, but I think it's also impacted by the fact that I was not living the student accommodation when I first came and then maybe we both live quite far away. So sometimes I can't come in myself and there's some other people can, so that does impact my experience here.

Claire

Yeah. Yeah.

Student S (name redacted)

But I didn't find that particularly lonely, but it might just be me personally, because I can still talk to a few people like [Student P].

Student P (name redacted)

Yeah, that's yeah.

Student S (name redacted)

And I do feel like there's enough, or at least like substantial support from the staff and you, you guys do make me feel quite like welcomed. And I feel like I can talk to you.

Claire

That's good.

Student P (name redacted)

It's absolutely true. Like in term of, like, what also I was saying before of having support, like, I do feel like the way like uni is structured here, like students do have like at least like emotional support? Like from like all the others they have around they have around that are there to guide them like. I feel like we're specifically talking

about that, like a more like psychological type of support. Like, I do absolutely feel that there is and there is like nothing such as like anxiety... pressure... like, I think that we are left to go at our own pace.

Claire

Yeah.

Student P (name redacted)

And like everyone is also very like understanding of the circumstances, not judgmental. So in that sense, it's absolutely like as an environment...

Claire

Well, that's good to hear. Yeah. Thank you. OK, so in your opinion, how do you think we could ensure that future first year students, maybe who have similar experiences to yourselves, how do you think we can make sure that they feel like they belong here?

Both

Hmm. (Long pause)

Student P (name redacted)

Because it does depend on the people that you have and how much also are they like available to do that. So well, obviously like an experience like this is already like a good step like into helping people mix with each other and know each other. Like for example, through the [Interchange] project, I knew Paolo and the fact that we are both Italians like also had each other like to communicate and he has been emailing. He has been emailing me to ask like stuff about Cyanotypes because I did told him that do a lot of Cyanotypes, so I could like, have this exchange with him. Once we went back together on the train.

Claire

That's nice.

Student P (name redacted)

It's already like, yeah, connection more that he created through something like that.

Claire

Fantastic

Student P (name redacted)

That's great if it's once. Yeah, it's already meaningful.

Claire

That's great.

Student S (name redacted)

Yeah. I mean, [darkroom technician] also, she sometimes emails me and asks me if I can help like students from different year groups because they have like similar projects or like ideas as me and I think that's really great. Yeah. Yeah, that's one thing, I guess.

Claire

That's that's great. All right. Thank you. So my last question is, is there anything that you could suggest we might change about the mentoring project to make it a more valuable experience for 3rd year students? (Pause) Maybe the dates!

Student S (name redacted)

Have they been given the option to contact us like individually or like are they encouraged to?

Claire

No, that's a point- we haven't given them your contact details directly, I guess I didn't want to do that without your permission, but maybe that would be something I could talk to the third years about providing... or having a poster or something with your third years that you could speak to. That's a lovely idea, yeah.

Student S (name redacted)

Because some people...

Claire

When we did the first session, some people put their contacts on the Padlet, but it might be hard for the first years to remember to look back at that.

Student S (name redacted)

Yeah.

Claire

Yeah, that's a great idea. Anything you wanted to add? It's OK if not! Ok, well thank you very much indeed- I will send you the transcript of our conversation.

● **Claire Undy** stopped transcription