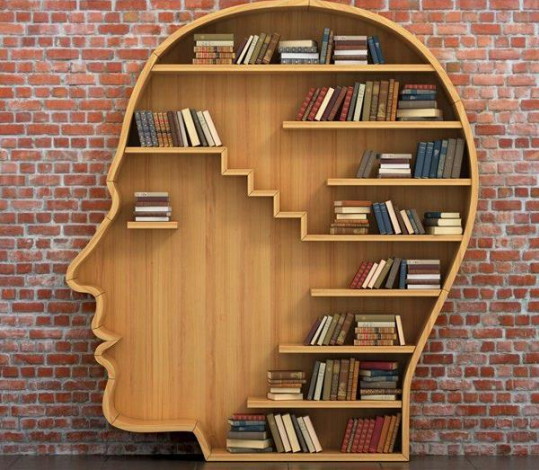
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Your Online Diary



**Introduction**

Thank you so much for participating in this research project!

As you will be aware from the Participant Information Page provided to you prior to joining the project, part of this research involves recording your decisions, choices and/or plans for graduation; your reasons, motivations and influences informing these, and your experiences of transitioning out of university in a secure online diary.

The below information provides you with further information about the online diaries, as well as tips and advice for making entries.

**How do I access my diary?**

You will receive a notification from me via email which will provide you with access to a secure Google Doc (your online diary).

This notification will state that Zoe Baker has shared a document with you, and will provide a link to access this. Please do be sure to check your spam folder if this does not arrive to your inbox.

Only you and myself (for analysis purposes) have access to your diary. I will not be continuously monitoring this, but will access your diary once every three months (on average) to extract your entries for analysis. I will contact you via email before I do this each time.

**What is the purpose of the diary?**

Interviews will take place approximately only once every six months, and a lot can happen in that time! The diary is therefore used to provide you with a space to record anything relevant to the research that occurs in between each of your three one-to-one interviews.

***What is relevant?***

Absolutely *anything* related to your decisions, choices, plans and/or your experiences of leaving university and entering graduate life is relevant to include. This is a very broad area so there is a lot of flexibility as to what you include; **there are no ‘wrong’ answers – it is not possible to write the ‘wrong thing’!**

If you are unsure about where to start, you may find the below prompts helpful. These include some ideas on what you may wish to write about:

* Your plans or next steps (if any) for immediately after graduation/in the first few months of graduating/ later on e.g. what do you plan/hope to do after completing your studies?
* What has motivated or influenced your plan(s), decision(s), or choice(s) for what you want to do after graduation? Why do you want to do this/where did this idea originally come from?
* How you feel when you think about your decisions, choices and plans for graduate life (or graduate life in general)? Why do you feel this way?
* Any changes in your decisions, choices or plans that have occurred over time, and the reasons for these changes.
* Your experiences and thoughts about leaving university.
* Any positive experiences or challenges you have encountered/are encountering while entering graduate life.

**When to make a diary entry?**

This is completely flexible; there is **no** expectation that you will make entries very regularly e.g. daily or weekly (but you can if you would like to!)

As a guide, you could write whenever you have thoughts or experiences connected to your decisions, choices, plans and/or your experiences of leaving university and entering graduate life. You might want to use the above prompts (if you like) as a guide, adding entries when things like this occur.

**What else can I include?**

You are not restricted to only including writing in your entries. You are also welcome to include:

***Images/photos***

Google Docs allows you to upload images from your device. To do this, click on ‘Insert’ from the toolbar along the top of the document, then ‘Image’ (as shown in figure 1 below).

**Please avoid adding photos that identify you or other people.** This is to ensure that your identity remains anonymous should any of these images be used in publications or reports arising from the research. You are welcome to add photos of places, objects, or things that visually represent something you have written about in your diary.

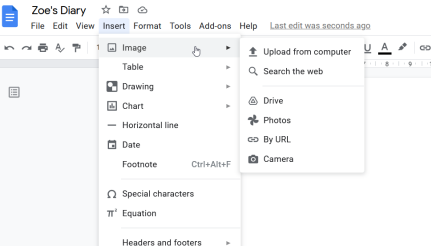


Figure 1

**Links to things on the web**

You are welcome to include links to webpages if you feel this is relevant. For example, you may have seen something online that made you consider a particular plan, or something that led you to think about graduate life. **To maintain confidentiality, please avoid linking to social media profiles of yourself or other people.**

***Voice typing***

Google Docs has a ‘voice typing’ tool which converts your speech to text. You may find this easier and/or faster than typing. To use the voice typing tool, click on ‘tools’ from the toolbar along the top of the document, then ‘voice typing’ (as shown in figure 2 below). **Please note that you need to be using the Chrome browser to access the voice typing tool.**

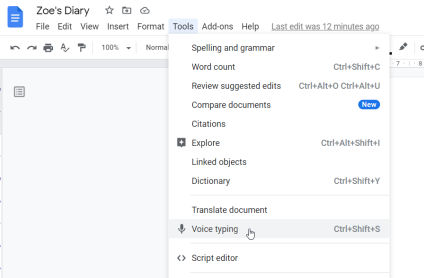
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Figure 2

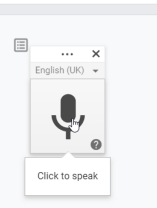
After selecting ‘voice typing’, you will see an icon of a microphone (as shown in figure 3 below). Click on the microphone when you wish to begin speaking, then click again when you would like to finish. 

Figure 3