Phew, well I managed to get that one in by the skin of my teeth… I didn’t realise that the deadlines were so strict. I asked my tutor for an extension of a couple of days but they don’t do that here! Why not! It’s only a couple of days – apparently I have to go and see some woman about EC if I can’t do it – what the hell is that when it’s at home. Anyway I got it done- I hope it was good enough. They seem really hot on referencing here and I don’t know if I’ve done it right

Week 8 – I have just realised my first assignment is due in next week – where did all the time go, I thought I had loads of time to do it. I have been going out and having a great time with all my new friends, I’ve missed a few early morning lectures, it didn’t seem like much, but now I come to do the assignment, I’m not sure what I’m doing – I’d like to go and see the tutor, but he might get a bit funny about me not attending his lessons…perhaps I’ll just ask my mates and see how they are doing.

Teaching started today, there seems to be so much to do and I don’t know if I am going to be able to keep up with it all. It’s not just the work, it is all the jargon they use here… assessments, assignments, EC, Mitigation, defers, refers…what does it all mean

Induction week started today – I don’t know whether I am coming or going, we had a base room, but I arrived a bit late and they were already on the IT induction – I didn’t know whether to wait or go and find them – but where would they be??? In the end I went to the foyer and one of the guides showed me where to go. I think I’m supposed to enrol – I’m so confused.

End of induction week, I have met loads of people from my course now and have one or two friends – at least they seem to know what they are doing. It’s been manic, so much to take in I don’t know how I will ever remember it all, we had loads of talks but I can’t remember what most of them were about. Teaching starts next week, at least I know my way around a bit now.

OK, this is the first day! We arrived at halls and found that there were loads of people there to show us where to go, they even helped us move our stuff to our rooms. I couldn’t wait for my parents to go, but now they have I feel a bit lonely. There is a gang of people in the kitchen and I should go and make friends but they have been here since Friday and seem to be a group already, I think I will just sit here for a bit… Maybe it will be easier on Monday when we go to the uni for induction… I’m not sure where to go yet I hope I meet someone soon. I have tried to find my facebook friends but I don’t know where they are.

Well this is it then, I’m off to Uni tomorrow – I am so excited, Mum and Dad have been collecting stuff for what seems like forever. I think they are excited too, but Mum gets upset every now and again, she says she is OK but I feel a bit guilty about going.

I am scared too, I have met some people on facebook that are going to Solent, but what if we don’t get on, what if I can’t find my way around or I am the only one who can’t do the work. Dad says I can come home if I don’t like it, he means to be reassuring I think, but he just makes it worse.

**Diary of my first year at University**

OMG last week of term, I’m going home for Christmas, thank god for that, I have no money left and weeks before my loan comes through, at least I’ll get fed at home. I have planned to do loads of work over the holiday too, I have to catch up on all the lectures I’ve missed and I have 3 assignments due in the week after we get back to uni. I am really worried because I’ve had no feedback from my other assignment. If I got that wrong the next one will be wrong too.

Back to Uni today – I don’t want to go, it’s been great at home with the family, though I can’t wait to see my mates, I didn’t do any of the work I planned to do, I just didn’t seem to get around to it, now I feel as though I am even more behind – I won’t get my money till Monday, and I still have the weekend to get through. I’m really glad I’ve still got some Christmas money left.

We have got all this work to do and now I have to start looking for somewhere to live next year. I am going to live with some of the guys from halls, but we have to find somewhere, find the deposits sort out tenancy agreements and who pays for what – it all sounds so complicated. I’ve concentrated on that a bit, and missed a few more lectures – it just keeps piling up

Half way through the second term, I have just had my feedback from my tutors and I think I have done really badly and asked today about changing course, they said it’s too late to change now and I would have to wait till next year, that feels like a waste of a year, but when I asked about starting the year again they said it was not possible to do that because I don’t have any real reason. That isn’t fair, because I just want to do well.

The last 3 weeks have been blind panic, I have been up all night getting my assessments done and I still need to find a job, they are all bar jobs though and that means working late at night and then I have even less of a chance of getting up in the morning for my lectures.

Exams and second assignments looming now – but some good news today, my mate said **it** **doesn’t matter if I don’t pass everything** – I can still go to the next year, I wonder if I can drop one of my units then – that would make life easier. I have to go and see someone about it, student 1st sent me up to the faculty to talk to the Student support woman? Who is she and what does she do? She might be the one who talked to us in induction week, but I haven’t got a clue what she was saying – there was too much info that week. I guess I’ll find out tomorrow.

Talking of next year, I’m not sure what happens, how do I know when to come back? or where to go? Will they write to me? How will I get my timetable? I wonder if I can get it before I go back so I can plan my working hours better?

July – My results are out tomorrow, I’m really nervous now!

Oh No I failed an assignment I have to do a resit – where do I get it from? When do I hand it in? I phone the Uni, they are going to send it to me, I wish I’d found out more before I left!

Got my assignment in the post today – but I don’t understand it – they said I only failed one but they have sent me stuff for the whole unit, I won’t have time to do it all again before the end of august. I am really panicking now! My dad said to phone them and ask, but I don’t know who to call, will they all be on holiday? Is the uni even open?

I went to see the support lady again today, I told her that my problems were mostly around money and stuff, she asked me if I had registered with jobshop! And asked if I had applied for Access funds! Why is she telling me that NOW! I could have done with knowing it earlier.

Called that student woman again, she will be so fed up with me, I said that I had failed one but they sent me 2, she was OK, she explained that I only had to do the bit I had failed. I have to look at where it says refer on my transcript (I guess she means my results page) and just do the bit that corresponds to that. I’m glad I asked, but it is still going to affect my holiday and work plans. I am DEFINITELY not going to be doing this next year

I don’t think I did all that well this year, but hopefully I will have passed everything, someone said we have a resit period in august if we don’t pass everything, I hope I don’t have to do it, I need to work to get some money together.

Next year I am definitely going to work harder and not leave so much to the last minute.

Well that’s it then 1 week to go – I don’t think I have ever worked so hard, it’s not like school, you don’t get the work checked before it is handed in, you just have to give it your best shot and hope. I really wish we got our feedback quicker too – it would be better if I knew where I went wrong whilst the whole thing was still fresh in my mind.

I spoke to the student support lady today – she says I still have to pass everything otherwise I won’t get a degree, but I thought that the first year didn’t count, when I said that she explained that the marks don’t count towards the final degree but I still have to pass the units. (I wish someone had explained that earlier)…she went on about trailing units, but to be honest I didn’t really know what she meant and I didn’t like to ask. I tried to look it up in my hand book, but it doesn’t say how your degree is made up, or explain about classifications or anything. I asked at the desk but they told me it was all on the portal! I CANT FIND IT!!

*It seems to be a mantra around here, you ask anyone for information and they say ‘It’s on the portal’*