Student Equality and Diversity
Brunel LGBT+ Peer Support Network

Tom, 21, Undergraduate Electronic and Computer Engineering

I came out in an all boys school at 15, and later told my parents when I was 18. Coming out wasn’t easy, but it went a lot better than I thought. I know that I would have benefitted from talking to someone with experience, but I didn’t have that chance. It’s extremely important to feel like you have someone to talk to, and it’s a bonus if they’ve gone through something similar to you. I would encourage anyone who has any questions, or just wants to have a chat, to come and talk to one of us involved in the LGBT Peer Support Network. So if you’d like to talk to us, in person or online, our doors and inboxes are always open!

We’re here to help, and you may not realise it yet, but you’ve already got a friend in us to help you through whatever you’re going through.

Sammy, 19, Undergraduate Anthropology

I’m the social secretary of the LGBT+ meaning I help to organise all the events we have during the year. I came out at about 14 years old and I didn’t have the best time with it as I lost many of my friends, but I found gay youth groups to join in my city which helped a lot and I made many new friends from it. While being at Brunel I have helped with many of the events that have been done to support the LGBT students we have here including the equal marriage vote, world aids day and I was part of the “it gets better video”. I have never been ashamed or scared of being gay but I don’t think it is the only thing which defines who I am. I’m excited to be a part of the LGBT support group and hope that I’m able to help people. Don’t be nervous about contacting us. We will listen to any issues that you may have whether that’s through email or face to face. We are always here to help!

Anna, 25, Postgraduate PhD Sociology & Communications

I work part-time as a sales assistant in a department store, I’m an intern for a political organisation in London and a songwriter on the side. I identify as gay/lesbian (whichever you prefer to call it!) although I’m not really into labels. I came out when I was 23 and was very much in ‘the closet’ during my time as an undergraduate and master’s student so I have a good understanding of what it’s like to endure that struggle alone and need someone to talk to. I now aim to use my own experiences of both accepting my sexuality and ‘coming out’ to make a positive difference to the lives of other gay or questioning people who are finding that process difficult.

I am excited to be a part of the LGBT peer support network and encourage anyone who needs to talk to get in contact, whether this is by email or meeting face to face. You’re not alone!

Robyn, 21, Undergraduate Finance and Accounting

I am the Equality and Diversity Chair for the Union of Brunel Students. Since ‘coming out’ at the age of 17 I have engaged in the LGBT+ community at a variety of different levels, including being the president of Brunel LGBT+ Society and Working group, being part of the organising team for National Student Pride, campaigning for Equal Marriage, attending national conferences and advising schools on how to lower incidents of homo/transphobia. Most importantly though, I know how hard it can be to struggle with gender, sexuality and other LGBT+ issues and how important it is to feel you have someone to talk to.

I really encourage anyone who has any questions, queries or who just wants to talk to somebody who’s been through something similar to get in contact; we’re all very keen to help!

For confidential advice and support email—lgbt.support@brunel.ac.uk or call—07741569785 For more information visit—
http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/administration/equality-and-diversity