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## What university is like when your eyes don't work well

Author: Griffith Admin

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*New technologies are transforming the way visually impaired students study*

**Congratulations to BA Journalism student Robert Morrissey whose piece about coping with visual impairment at college was recently published on *The Guardian* newspaper website. [Read Robert's article](#)**



Originally from Kilkenny City, Robert is an aspiring journalist and budding photographer and can usually be found blogging or going to gigs in his spare time. He told us a bit more about his student life at Griffith College.

Why I Chose Griffith

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I actually didn't find out about Griffith until after my CAO results, but I'm glad I did, as I felt right at home when I visited for an open day in August 2012. I wanted to learn about a number of different aspects of media and the varied content of the BA in Journalism degree fitted the bill.

It was also much more accessible than some of the other colleges for traveling to and from each week.

### **What I Like Most About Griffith**

The campus is easy to navigate, it has plenty of resources and is minutes away from Dublin City Centre. The facilities on campus such as the restaurant and student's union offer a place to meet others students. There are also a few options just outside the campus too.

### **Preparing for the BA in Journalism**

I think it was always going to be a bit of a challenge in some areas, but overall it was fine. I picked-up the new skills easily enough as the lectures covered most things but it is important to commit to working hard and making the most of it.

It can be a bit daunting to be in a new environment and undertaking challenging assignments, but I got used to this routine quickly.

### **Highlights of the BA in Journalism**

I really liked the blogging side of things in first year... it's hard to pick a favourite module. Radio was good fun and creating our own magazine spreads too.

Having my own work published, be it print, online, radio, or another form of media is a real buzz. A few of us attended the *Student Media Awards* for the first time in our second year as nominees, so seeing my work being recognised and promoted by my lecturers has been very satisfying and a great experience.

### **My Most Useful Experience So Far**

Learning about the different resources to gather media for your assignments. There are many resources I've discovered and it's interesting putting them to good use in my own work. Magazine spreads are an example; I wrote the stories, created the pages, and styled them based on some of my favourite publications, such as [Hot Press](#).

### **Recommendations for the BA in Journalism, Griffith College and Dublin**

Yes, for many of the reasons I have mentioned above. It's easy to get around independently and I've received the support from the college when I've needed it.

### Best bits of student life at Griffith ...

The social events in Arthur's Bar (the campus bar and restaurant). It is a great place to meet other students from both Griffith College and other Dublin universities.

### Best thing about Dublin ...

There is always something going on, things to see and do.

### Tips for new Griffith students who are visually impaired or have a disability

Be independent and confident about your work, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Make the most of mixing with the other students, especially from other faculties. You can learn a lot by simply talking to others and you will definitely have more fun in the process!

Using a laptop or desktop computer is a key part of the Journalism course, so just make sure you are comfortable with technology. You don't need to be a whiz with computers as the lecturers are there to help. I've found emails are incredibly useful for me as it's a good for finding out about college events and news and also accessing resources for my course.

### My Plans for the Summer

I intend to keep blogging and hopefully get some experience or a summer job in the field of media. I have had four job interviews so far for a few media companies based on the skills I've already acquired through my journalism degree.

### My Plans For The Future

To successfully finish my degree, build on my existing skills and experiences, and hopefully find a job at the end of it all, be it freelancing or full time.

### Useful Software, Organisations & Websites for Visually Impaired Students

Software wise I would say Dragon Dictate, ZoomText (for PC), or even the accessibility setting on iPhones and others are very useful. The NCBI and DARE scheme can help a lot of information on career options and assistance. [Ash Low Vision](#) is another site that offer low vision aids.

### [Find out more about the BA in Journalism](#)

### Useful Links for Visually Impaired Students

[ZoomText](#)

[NCBI Accessible Mobile Solutions](#)

[DARE](#)

[Dragon Dictate](#)

[NCBI](#)

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