



# Telling Our Stories, Finding Our Roots

## Interview with Adam Hassan

**Interviewer: Nicole Redfern**

**Interviewer 0:01**

Hi, Adam. Um so can I start just by checking that we have your consent to participate in the interview today?

**Adam 0:07**

Of course, yes, I do consent to participate.

**Interviewer 0:10**

Fantastic. Thank you. So today is the 11th of September 2020, and we're conducting a remote interview on zoom, the interviewer is Nicole Redfern. Um Adam, could you start by telling me your full name and where you are today?

**Adam 0:24**

Of course. My name is Adam Hassan and at the moment I'm in Okehampton.

**Interviewer 0:32**

Thanks, Adam. Um so can we start off just by talking about I think you have an object which you bought um today for us to share about your identity.

**Adam 0:42**

Of course, so my object would be the - my home country's flag, Egypt. Unfortunately, it is glued to my wall uh in my bedroom, so it was difficult to get down. Um but I can talk about um I can describe it and I can talk about what it means to me. Um. So the Egyptian flag is a red, a red, a strip of red and then strip of white and then black at the bottom. And in the middle, there's an - a bald eagle. Um. But, uh, but really the flag we - I got it when I first moved to the UK, um, just to remind me of ah, of home a bit and, you know, just kind of be a visual reminder um of where I come from and you know that it's not too far really, um, because sometimes, um, you know, it's a new environment, it's difficult to get used to - to a new environment really quickly. So it really helped to have you know, that kind of reminder um that made me feel less um... missing from from where I'm from, but, um, really, I would say that every time I look at it, um, it gets, you know, I - I enjoy the place that I'm in now so it gets easier to to, you know, move on, which is great. Um. But, uh, obviously, you know, I still speak to a lot of family over there. And I'm still very much in touch with, uh, where I am from over there. But I'm also, uh, from here now. So maybe next to it, I should put on our council's flag, I don't know.

**Interviewer 2:26**

Thanks, Adam. Um. So I believe from what you told me you moved to Okehampton and to England about three years ago. Um could you tell us a little bit about your life before coming to Okehampton and how that decision was made?

**Adam 2:40**

Of course, okay, so um, I really like that question, um. How the decision was made was probably that me and my siblings are - um - in a different part of our life in terms of schooling and we felt that coming to the UK, um - coming back to the UK really because we are half English, um - to continue our studies was a great, was a good move for us, you know, especially this year I'm applying to university. Um. What was life like back then in Egypt? It was really different. Definitely the weather was different, um, of course, goes without saying really. Um. Egypt has got a very hot climate. Um. But because it's a desert in the evenings, it gets really cold because, um, the sand kind of reflects the, the heat and there aren't any clouds to keep the land insulated, but that's enough science. Um, so yeah, so it gets really cold in the evening. Um, so when we walk to school, you might feel really cold at seven o'clock, eight o'clock in the morning, but midday you're like gasping for, for some air conditioning. But, um, so the biggest change really, and, and it takes, it's a bigger change than people might realise because Mentally, you know, you have to overcome all the barriers of your, your new environment while, while getting used to the fact that, you know, it's cold. [muffled laughter]

But I would say, my life there the main difference for me being a, a young ah, person was the change of how people, er, just kind of conversed with each other and, and, you know, interacted with each other. I had, uh, some friends in Egypt, um, but I wouldn't be able to kind of completely act the same as I would with them here because you know, things are different in different countries. Um, so, you know, certain jokes, certain things like that, you know, might be normal here might not be normal over there and vice versa. And, and that took a few months to get used to just how, how people talk um, and, and the body language, er, in, in Egypt we're quite um hand gesture-y even I'm doing hand gestures at the bottom here. But, ah, you know, in the UK that might not be so and people would point that out to me and and that was something that I didn't realise, um.

And something I think is quite good to mention is maybe when when I was in Egypt, I didn't know like, what being maybe an Egyptian is or how people act a certain way. But when you move you it really puts into perspective, the different, um, trains of thought, the different you know, as I said, er, body language, er, speech patterns, all these things you understand. And actually, I think it was really good to, um, really get in touch with one's identity. Because you get to understand yourself from a different point of view. Um. In the same like, I'm sure someone who's British might move somewhere else they might, you know, or think this is how British people act because relatively to, to other people, er, you know, um, but but you know, some things are stereotypes and some things are true. And um but the great thing is, ah, learning and moving moving on. And, um, it's great to mix with different people, I think.

**Interviewer 6:27**

Thanks, Adam. Um, so thinking about that, that process of coming to a new place and, um, having to, to fit into a different culture, a different way of being. Um, you've talked a bit about the challenges, what helped with that, what helped you make that transition?

**Adam 6:43**

Okay, so I, I'd like to start by saying, I do feel like when I moved, I, the transition was really great because, you know, uh, what happened was we moved and within a few days, we were introduced to the college, um. And some people might feel like being someone new in a new environment, a new school might be difficult. Um, for example, making things like friends, getting used to teachers, stuff like that. However, I'd like to say that I, surprisingly, even though I was one of the people that felt like that might be really hard, I actually found it um, quite easy to make friends. People were really interested to find out, you know, a bit about me. So yeah, I made a lot of friends really quickly. Um, and that wasn't a problem.

But the problem was me having the brainpower to keep it up, because everyone's every - a lot of people were interested in asking me questions and, you know, getting to know me and I was getting to know them. Um, and that was, you know, somewhat draining. And I remember in that first few months, I was actually asleep a lot. I was going to bed. I was always tired.

But, so yeah, so two things I'd say was a lot of rests, you know, um, make, you know, because absorbing my surroundings was quite tiring, but also, actually in the first few months, I was in contact with my family quite a lot. Er, My British and Egyptian family, you know, um, definitely my cousin was a big help for me, um, who lives over there, he would just, you know, talk and tell me about what's going on over there. I tell him what's going on over here. And he was like, really interested to know and we discuss, you know, certain situations together. And um, it was really helpful for me to have someone else to compare what was going on around me, with and we would discuss it, for example, maybe I'd say, you know, this happened at school, and it was really, it was really weird, I don't know how to react to this, and he might just give me a-a third person point of view. And I think that helped me, um, you know, get through it I think.

**Interviewer 9:02**

And when you were growing up were you, were you a bilingual household? Were you speaking English and Arabic? Or were you primarily speaking Arabic? So I'm thinking about when you came to Okehampton and whether you also had a language adjustment, or it was quite usual for you to be speaking English as well.

**Adam 9:18**

Oh. That's a, that's a really good question we, we - So, uh, I think my mother was telling me the first language I spoke was Arabic, but, um, my mother speaks English to us. And that's why I think before the age of five, we were bilingual. Um. But I think being bilingual is something and be -, so like if I were able, so I can talk, er, English to-to someone because I know the words, them understanding me might be different because of my accent. Um. You know the speed of speech, without getting like too specific about, you know, the study of speech, but basically, I could talk English, but I struggled to understand people when I first first moved. And, and that's because the English I was taught or, or was talking was entirely different from Okehampton English or, or

Devon English. Um, A lot of slang was introduced to my vocabulary very quickly because I had to learn it. And surprisingly, people use more slang than you might think. Um. And that was, you know, having good friends, er, at the school explained things to me all the time, I was asking what stuff meant, you know, all the time. Um. So, was there a language barrier in terms of our studying every night grammar? No, there wasn't, I wasn't studying anything like that. But in terms of, er, you know, just trying to, to talk, uh, with people yeah, hundred percent. There was, there was definitely a struggle there, um. The way people, the fluency so the way people put words together, you know, was also something and that came through actually in my when I was studying English at school it was I had to adjust, ah, my academic, uh, English as well, but wasn't too bad because I could speak English.

**Interviewer 11:21**

And now, ah, in your day to day do you speak both languages? Do you just speak, um - Do you mostly speak English? Um, how do the, How do the two fit together? And also actually an interesting question, I always think is how do you feel when you're speaking both languages?

**Adam 11:39**

So, I think day to day, hands down, I'm speaking English most of the time. I'm at school, I'm, you know, talking to teachers, uh, friends, it's English. But when I'm at home, ah, sometimes, uh, we speak English but a lot of the time some ideas they can only be expressed in Arabic, and because we have the luxury of understanding both languages, we have, er, access to a wider variety of vocabulary we can get ideas across and just things that we're used to saying in Arabic, we say in Arabic. Um, at the moment I'm studying my Arabic A level, so, um, even though, so next to my English studies, I'm studying Arabic academically as well, I'm not just speaking it.

Um. So, yeah. Uh. Good question about how I feel when I speak the - two languages. Sometimes and this might sound a bit weird, but, um, someone who's bilingual or trilingual they, we seem [vocalised sigh] I can only talk for myself but I did read this somewhere. You sometimes associate different personalities to different languages. So when I, when I speak Arabic, you might find I speak more passionately, or I speak faster, um, or I use different vocabulary, uh, directly translated to English I mean. I might use a different set of words, ah, to convey the same meaning. And I think that's very true, um, um.

But again stripping it down to just like how I feel. I do feel I enjoy speaking Arabic more. Maybe because now I hear English all the time and Arabic is a bit exotic, I don't know. Um. Because when I was in Egypt I do remember English was, er, quite cool to speak as well. So it depends where I am.

**Interviewer 13:29**

Great, thanks, Adam. Um, so I'm just going to take you back a little bit to when you first arrived in Okehampton, do you have any particular memories of the first time that you came to the town, you, what you might have seen or heard or smelled, the first people that you met?

**Adam 13:45**

Okay, so yes, I, I actually do remember quite clearly. We, we, we came down and the first thing I noticed was, ah this can be good or bad, but the sky was grey. [Laughter] That's the first thing I noticed, the sky was grey. And just on that point, the first day, okay, the sky is grey, maybe today's a bad weather day, the next day the sky was grey. The third day the sky was grey. I was, I was really confused. I was like, is this permanent or or what? Until that summer, you know, a few months in and we saw it, there is sun. Um. That's the first thing I remember.

And I remember, uh, breathing in the air. And it was much, much colder, um. And that first, the first few breaths in Okehampton, were like, okay, you know, this, It feels quite fresh Devon is you know, quite uh rural and the countryside I came from the capital city. So that's just a, a city difference. I've, it was quite fresh, but it was cold and I do remember like, having to think for a moment what I'm do - what's going on.

Um, first few people I met, uh, who, uh, I'm still friends with today, you know, they, they they are the ones that like were there and saw me transition throughout the whole three years that I've been here. And they they were really supportive. You know, um, they understood that I'm from a different place, and all the questions I had, they were really, you know, they would happily tell me about Okehampton. I had some people, you know, show me around the town. Um.

Walking around the town, definitely. You know, first of all England drives on the left Egypt drives on the right. So you know, looking left and right on the on the road. We look right to left that was like, wow, okay, that's a difference. Um, but, uh, yeah, I noticed the names were different. People had different names, like, for example, er, just some random names. Er, You know, in Egypt, we might have some names like Ahmed, Omar, Ali. Here it's Arden. Yeah, Sophie, uh, you know, different names like that that. So that was a difference. For sure. Um. But yeah, I think, ah, I do remember when we first came the fact that it was a bit darker, cold, grey, um, um, which actually I came to enjoy because you know, you can style different outfits with jackets.

**Interviewer 16:30**

Um, and thinking about Okehampton as a town to live in as a young person. What's it like? Is it a place that you enjoy living? Is there anything you would like to change about the town?

**Adam 16:41**

I think Okehampton's really great. It's got so much space. You can you can go, um, and you're within, you know, depends where you live, obviously, but you're really close to green area. And sometimes you take that for granted, um, especially in the city where genuinely you have to drive for a while to get to a park, for example. But I mean, for for us personally, it's more like three minutes away and you're in an open green space. Dartmoor is right on our doorstep, really. And so I think, I think for for young, uh, people, that's really great. Because sometimes in a congested city where people are always trying to, you know, get to work, get doing things can be overwhelming. Um. But Okehampton's really great with all the sites that we have, like the Okehampton castle, things like that. You can do things, you know, er, you just need to be a bit more imaginative, I guess, uh. Think of things to do, you know, go and play some sports where in the city, you might go, um, to the shopping mall. Um. And and that's quite easy, you just go there, but here you might wanna get together with your friends and play football or something like that. So I think that's really great.

I think though, for someone who's transitioning into adulthood, it can be a bit restrictive. Um, if you do look, you know, at, at some of the people you see here, you know, people are either in established work, you know, or they're coming up, um. They're at school, and that middle generation, a lot of them, they, they go to university elsewhere you know, and as someone who's in that position, applying to university stuff like that, you know, even if Okehampton did have a university, I would like to go somewhere else and try new things. You know, in somewhere a bit bigger, somewhere where there are more people, um, you know, my age and things like that. Um. Just to experience different cultures as well. Uh, you know. But as I say, it's-it's really great for the open area. Dartmoor is amazing people travel, you know, from from all places of the UK to to come see so we're lucky to have that, I think.

**Interviewer 18:59**

Um and you mentioned there, one of the reasons for wanting to study elsewhere is to, to be in a more multicultural space, to have access to other cultures. Um, what's your sense of diversity in Okehampton as a town and also in the college as well amongst the student population?

**Adam 19:22**

Ok, um. So I think, so diversity, it can mean a few things to me. Um. It could mean maybe diversity in cultures as in people are from different countries, um, and they've experienced different things in their life. But it could also mean maybe diversity in ages, stuff like that. So I think, for sure there's a diversity in ages. Um. The younger generation, I would, in my opinion, there aren't so many of those as much as there would be in a city where it might be all, you know, young, young people. Um. Er. I would say in the college, there aren't as many... It's not as diverse in terms of, um, culturally, the first type that I mentioned. So, I'm probably for sure - So I haven't met someone else who's like, uh, from an African country. Um. You know, but I have seen there are some people from Syria that we met, and we could talk to them in Arabic. Um, you know, but if I went to say, er, London or something like that, where I have friends there, they say that everyone is, you know, a lot of people talk Arabic it's not it's not, um, you know, it's not, um, not normal. You know, people talk different language. Actually, I found out that rich people are the minority in London. [Laughter] Um. I didn't know that, um. So yeah, so for me here down here. I get excited when I hear someone talk Arabic or something like that, but my friends over there like, it's normal. You know. So, I guess I feel like it would it would be good to have more, ah, you know diverse cultures people bring interesting stories with them, you know, when they're from different places. But I do feel like Okehampton is is mostly people from Okehampton or, or surrounding areas.

**Interviewer 21:24**

And with that sense of Okehampton being mostly people from Okehampton and the surrounding areas, what's been your sense of how people have responded to yourself and your family arriving from a different place? Um. Have you felt welcomed? Have you felt like people are curious? Has anyone been suspicious?

**Adam 21:44**

Okay, so, alright, I do want to start by saying, um, maybe I have an advantage that I'm used to to Devon because my family have lived in a place called Axminster, which is off Exeter, near there. And so we come here, we've come here a few times for a summer holiday. So I have like been here, but it's different to live here, you know, very different. So I have that advantage of mixing with the people very briefly. So when I first came, I kind of knew what people look like you know, because you might go to a country and genuinely people look different, you know, but I kind of had a sense. So that gave me advantage on you know, certain things to say because if I say things that people here will be completely shocked about, they might at first be intrigued, but after that, they might like not want to, you know they that's not for them.

So for me, I felt like I need to, I need to kind of, um, mix in properly. Right? And when when I came, uh, into Okehampton with that in mind, actually, I found that people are more welcoming than I thought. You know whereas I thought I have to act a certain way just to you know, you know, make sure that like I fit in well because Okehampton is, um, well from what I read mostly people from Okehampton, uh, like we said, um but actually people were really really welcoming especially the people uh in my age group, they they, you know, they learn about you learn about different cultures and geography, you know, uh. People are aware that you know, people come from different places and so I think that was such a great thing because when I, when I moved people were really welcoming, people were intrigued, people wanted to know where I was from, and not just that, you know, I became, I had ah, a lot of friends and and and now, um, they're not just intrigued and then you know, they move on.

No, I've got a lot of friends and, and, um, when certain landmarks or or certain times in the year happened for like, like our maybe festivals back home, they they might tell me about it. And say oh you're you're doing this right and this is what's going on? I'd say yes and that would start a discussion and and that's something maybe you wouldn't expect from somewhere that are really, you know, so far from a place like like Egypt and and, where they might not have met an Egyptian before or, you know, I'm just assuming that but you know, they, they were genuinely I think happy to have some uh different - I was told, um, I was told that they were happy to have some mix in the year group

**Interviewer 24:35**

And are there any particular festivals or cultural traditions which you've shared with your your new friends from the school that they've taken part in?

**Adam 24:44**

Yeah so it's, it's probably quite well known like it's a thing I guess, a lot of so, there's a festival or a religious holiday called Ramadan. And, er, Ramadan, it's it's where you fast, uh, from food and water from sunrise to sunset, uh, for a month. And well, first of all, it's a joke, but some - a lot of people say not even water? Like you can't even have water? [Laughter] And that's really funny because, uh, yeah, not even water, um. But still, some of my close friends wanted to give it a try. And they, you know, and some of them managed to do it for a day and it was really great to see it really made me feel, you know, welcomed and at home and I was really happy that, you know, I, they were enjoying themselves and trying something, you know, they might have not done or considered before. Um and that showed me that actually, you know, people here are welcoming

and, you know, they are, um, open to new new ideas and and in conversations I guess it was advantage it made me, It made me interesting. Um. And I think when I introduced that to them, they were even joking and saying I should teach the BV [*Beliefs and Values*, or Religious Studies] lessons. [Laughter] Um. But, ah, no, it was great. And I when I introduced that to them, uh, they might wish me happy Ramadan.

**Interviewer 26:20**

Thanks, Adam. Um, so coming back to your Egyptian heritage, um and and how that features in your life now, are there particular things which you feel are in, yeah, in your family's day to day life? So, you-you've mentioned particular mannerisms, um, or behaviours like ah, expressing more with your hands. Anything else which feels like your Egyptian-ness is part of you, now, in Okehampton?

**Adam 26:47**

Okay, so, um, I would say I would say this is an Egyptian trait, but I would also say it's quite predominant in my family. The reason I think that I'm, I uh made friends easily was because people were not used to someone who would just go up and talk to talk to people. And I didn't know this I for where I'm from, that's normal, you know. Um. And also, I guess my family were just like quite confident, em, in that we can just start a conversation, you know, I'm put into a new environment, I'm going to be here every day for the next three, four years. You know, maybe it's worth getting to know some people I don't know, you know. Um so so when I first got there, I think people were expecting me to probably not know so much English. So that would have been a language barrier. So I guess I'm lucky in the sense that I did know some English, but they were just expecting probably someone who was quiet and I was told this, um, someone who's quiet you know, and um, and ah maybe didn't talk so much, but they were surprised to find that I was going and I was I was making conversation, I was saying hello, I was introducing myself. And I didn't quite realise the the effect of that until much later on where people were coming up to me and they were saying, you know, when you came in and you were right off the bat, you know, talking to people, we were like, I didn't like we weren't expecting that and that's like was was quite good. Um and that's the, uh, you know, the Egyptian effect I think that I had was, um, showing people that that were there a new perspective as someone new that actually, you know, just going in talking to a lot of people is okay. And and it's not it's it's not it's fine, you know, and, and um, and uh that was great, I think and that's something I introduced I probably, probably also introduced the - so I found that in the - [vocalised sigh] it's difficult I don't want to make a generalisation, you know what I mean, but pretty much when, in Egypt, when someone make a joke or something like that, you might laugh and and pat someone on the shoulder or the back just like, you know, as you're making a joke. I didn't realise that people here or my experience, at least, weren't quite too familiar with that type of, of, you know, talking and and joking. And, and, you know, maybe when we were walking, obviously we can't do this now, but when I was walking in the corridors, maybe High Five some of my friends and I didn't realise that that was something that not everyone was doing. And so I think my personality is quite strong, so I kind of introduced them to that slowly. I had to personally get used to dialling it down. Um. But I think I am who I am and and people got used to that and um actually, I noticed that they were fine with it after a while.



**Interviewer 29:56**

Thanks, Adam. Um, so also just thinking a little bit about the year we find ourselves in now in 2020, and just coming out of, um, a big long lockdown period, how was that time for you?

**Adam 30:11**

So, um, I, the way I see it, um, is, ah, the way I see it is I've been given a great opportunity because England does have a lot of opportunities. People want to help each other. Right? And so the beginning of lockdown, uh, you know, putting to side the fact I'm doing my A Levels, right because that's that's a given you know, I should be studying stuff like that. I was going around trying to find as many opportunities that I can to kind of better myself and give me an advantage or or give me some insight on the field of work that I want to go into. So I applied for different, um, you know, programmes for example, a bank called JP Morgan. They were doing a programme and I got in and that made me, you know, meet new people and actually Okehampton College - that's where I go - it's a comprehensive. I met a lot of private school students. Um. And uh these private school students, for sure gave me an insight onto what another side of the UK is like, something I never noticed before. And and actually I got Head Boy of my college.

And something that I learned throughout the lockdown that I'm really grateful for was the fact that, you know, our college, um. So they, prep school kids seem to know what they're doing, they their path is quite clear for them. And I've noticed this when talking to them. So things like applying to university, uh, how to get jobs, things like that. So when I got the position of Head Boy over lockdown, actually, um, I was interviewed and and things like that, uh, along with my peers. I realised that I want to bring back to the college the idea of looking ahead more and realising that the things that we're doing today are for a reason, um. For, so if you want to go into banking or something like that, getting work experience at a bank is worth it and then realising that you need maybe good A Levels or something like that to go to university. And I realised that sometimes here, people might not realise that as much as kids at private school where they're all told, you need to do this because of this and that because of that.

So I learned over lockdown that I want to, so I've come here being given an opportunity and I want to add to the College. I want to explain and open eyes uh to other students where they might not have been able to get into the programmes. Um. And I think that's really important. Honestly, kids who have an advantage when they know what they're doing. It's it's, you know, it's it means that kids that might not have been, you know, where teachers are really busy, they might not have the time to sit down and explain everything. Um. You know, just to do my bit, really and say, okay, guys, you know, you need your grades, you need to understand that the competition out there when you go to private schools know exactly what they're doing, you know, you guys need to apply to these positions as well. So that's what it was for me really over lockdown.

**Interviewer 33:25**

And looking forward for you, Adam, do you have a sense of what you imagine for your future? What you would like to do?

**Adam 33:32**

Ah, yes, so I think I'd like to go into banking and and finance. Um. But when I look at a degree at university that I want to do it would probably be something like computer science and maths. Um, I study, um, maths at A Level and I really enjoy, uh, it's something I've brought with me from Egypt, even, you know. Um, my teachers over there were doing maths with me, here I want to continue doing maths so that's something that hasn't changed. And it may be interesting for people to know that your personality grows, but but, it depends who you are, but the things that I had, my morals and my views, they were they didn't really change, you know, and I've tried to keep that consistent. Um, so, I always enjoyed finance and I come to the UK I have more opportunity and that's what I think that I want to capitalise on and just keep doing.

**Interviewer 34:33**

And you talked about moving away for university. Do you see yourself coming back to Okehampton in the future?

**Adam 34:42**

Egyptian culture is very family orientated, so if my family's in Okehampton 100% I'll be back here every single half term or term holiday. [Laughter]. Which is great. Uh I get to see, you know, everything - I think though I moved three years ago to Okehampton, I've said that already but moving to university will be another shock. You know, already people have lived here they're moving to university. That's a shock for them. And I was just speaking about this with my family. I was just going to say, I hope I can deal with another one, you know, because it drains you. It it's it's, it's a it's a new environment. It's a new stage of life. I just hope I can, you know, go through it again, um. But I guess it's round two for me. I've done it before I can do it again. Um, but for sure I'll be back here uh, because I definitely feel like Okehampton's a part of my life now and I I can say I've spent the time of me growing up in Okehampton, it's affected who I am.

**Interviewer 35:46**

How would you say it's affected who you are?

**Adam 35:50**

Good good good question. Um, so in the sense that, first of all my English accent's, improved loads [Laughter]. So you can only imagine what it was before. Um. It's made me more open to different ideas. Um. So in the in where all the people that I would mix with, I might say something and where I'm from people might just like, move on from it. But here someone might have an opposing view they, they will let me know. And I had to just deal with that. And that I think is a really good, er, skill to have developed because in in the world, you know, not everyone might agree with you. And so it's definitely opened my eyes to, um, people having different viewpoints and discussing things. Um, and people here enjoy learning uh a lot. Um, and I enjoy learning and that changed my view on on education and taking it further than than just school. Um. But also the fact that, um, the sense of community like Okehampton has a great sense of community. And people are always coming up with new ideas. Um. But like I said, I was from the city. So sometimes you you fall into your own world, but here you don't get that.

**Interviewer 37:15**

Um, thinking about when you move away to study. What's the one thing which you'll miss the most?

**Adam 37:26**

[Unintelligible] I've met, it's difficult to pick one. And I think, I think hands down it will be my family for sure, but uh I'm trying to make it, um, specific to Okehampton in the sense that, like, the new places I've visited, the new people I've met, what will I miss most? Um. In Okehampton, literally, it's five minutes walk down to the town centre, I can go to the barber's I can. I can do that, but I'm sure a city I could do that as well. Um. But I think what here has that nowhere else - sorry, I just dropped my pen, uh, here has that nowhere else might have is the the wildlife, Dartmoor. Um. You know, if I wanted to try horse riding I could go um, and Meldon which is like ah, a reservoir, you can just go and swim at whenever you like in the summer. It's quite popular. I'm gonna miss that a lot, actually, I think.

**Interviewer 38:30**

Thanks, Adam. Um, is there anything else you'd like to share with us and then I've got maybe two more questions for you before we finish.

**Adam 38:38**

Um, I think.. uh, it was difficult to have to even though we can get a bus and go to Exeter. Um. That's kind of annoying. [Laughter] So that's something that I noticed straight away coming down here. Uh, like you, you live here but like if you need anything you can order it online or to go to the nearest uh, like town centre. That's like a shop like you can go shopping or something like that. It's an hour away. But the but we we noticed that Okehampton's great because you can get to the beach within an hour. You'd, but you can also get to the city, uh, Exeter, within an hour on the bus as well. And uh that was quite enjoyable.

**Interviewer 39:26**

Thanks. Um so, I guess my last few questions are - the first one is whether you have a message for people listening, as you know this, uh, will be an oral history which is archived. So it's possible that people may listen in 50 years or 100 years. If you could leave a message for the future, what would it be?

**Adam 39:48**

Be open to to people from different places. Um, you know, and focus on yourself through learning from others. That's how I did it. Um, I learnt a lot by, you know, listening more than talking. Um, then I did a whole lot of that when I first moved. And I think that's something that can stay consistent throughout the years. Um, someone who's talking isn't listening and they're not learning anything new. So, um, broaden your knowledge, understand more. Um, question things because, you know, who said it's bad to question things? Um, and learn about your surroundings because it makes us who we are really. Um. And I kind of wish I did that more when I was back at home to



understand more and more, um. Um. But uh it's been said a lot um but knowledge is is really the key and it's it's power. So.

**Interviewer 40:51**

Thanks, Adam. So that was a question looking forward and then I have one looking backwards, which is, if you could speak to yourself on the day you first arrived in Okehampton, what would you like to say?

**Adam 41:08**

Um... I would - oh, how do I say? Um. I think I would just mention to Young Adam the fact that, um, you know, things will come with time and it's it's not, you don't need to rush things, um, especially when you come to a new environment, where it's different. Um. You know. You slowly get used to it. Uh you slowly get used to it and, um, you know. Uh, things don't need to happen now [laughter]. And you you won't have the experience that you had back home, um, but it's not a bad thing. You'll learn a lot. Uh, genuinely, I'm sure all my friends that are going to university as well, they're gonna, we're all gonna learn a lot and we're gonna bring home, we're gonna bring back home all the things that we've learned. So, yeah, I think, uh things take time and that's the beauty about it, that it's a slow process. Um. And um. It's really interesting looking back to see how I've changed, um. For myself, I'm sure everyone looks back and think, you know, oh wow I used to do this, I used to do that, and now I know and now I know more. Um. I study maths and my knowledge builds on, it's like layers. And - wow because I have my siblings and and they're younger than me, I can see exactly where they're at in in uh in, specifically about maths. But I can see where they're at and then that makes me just reminisce about myself and think, oh I used to be at that level and now I know so much more. And and that's really cool.

**Interviewer 42:54**

Thank you, Adam. Is there anything else you'd like to say before we finish up?

**Adam 42:58**

Ah, no, thank you so much uh Nicole. And, uh, I really enjoyed the interview. But, ah, thank you very much for asking me all the questions.

**Interviewer 43:06**

Thanks for being with us today, Adam, um. We'll finish the recording here.