

**YUFE Diverse Perspectives**

**Introduction**

Every member of the YUFE community is unique and no two people’s experiences are identical. However, within that broad diversity, some people will have faced similar challenges, or had similar opportunities, which have shaped their lives. These lived experiences are influenced by aspects of our personal identity such as the colour of our skin, our age, our socioeconomic status or our gender identity and other factors such as our life experiences. Our identities, experiences and background also influence the way in which we view and approach our study, our work, our social interactions, and our relationships with others.

The YUFE Diverse Perspectives initiative invites members of the YUFE community to share their stories, their own ‘sense of self’, their values and beliefs and the aspects of their identity that have helped them develop into the people they are today.  

**Why are we doing this?**

We want to show that members of the YUFE community have diverse experiences which may resonate with others, that YUFE wants to support staff and students to reach their potential, whatever their background or experiences and that we want to enable YUFE staff and students to be their authentic selves in a safe and supportive environment.

We want to provide people with an opportunity to share their own story and to read the stories of others. We want readers to connect with the stories, to be inspired by them and to use that inspiration to try to make a positive difference.   

**What do I need to do if I want to share my story?**

All you need to do is **complete the Diverse Perspectives Story form below and submit it to** [**diversity@essex.ac.uk**](mailto:diversity@essex.ac.uk)and a member of the YUFE Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity (ED&I) Taskforce will contact you to confirm that your story has been accepted and that it will be uploaded to the YUFE website.

Please only provide information you are happy to share. Any information you provide on the form will appear alongside your story on the website.

In order to serve as an inspiration to others, your story should be told from a positive point of view, take no longer than two minutes to read (around 500 words), not name others without their express permission – the ED&I Taskforce will consider that by submitting your story for publication you have obtained this permission – and should only contain information you feel comfortable in sharing.   

**Are there any examples I can refer to for inspiration?**

Yes. You can read the stories we have collected so far for your own inspiration, but please be aware that they may include content on topics such as identity-based discrimination and harassment, self-harm and bereavement which some people may find difficult to read. We therefore encourage you to read with care.  

If you have any questions about the YUFE Diverse Perspectives initiative, please email [diversity@essex.ac.uk](mailto:diversity@essex.ac.uk)

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| **Diverse Perspectives Story form** | |
| **YOUR STORY** | **Guidance notes:**  - Tell a positive story  - Aim to connect with those who may be experiencing a similar situation/challenge and those for who may be unfamiliar with the topic  - Take no longer than two minutes to read  - Only contain information you feel comfortable sharing  - Only name others with their express permission  Your story should not:  - Be a public confession  - Be counselling-seeking    **Please write your story here:** |
| **FIRST NAME AND PRONOUN**  *Providing this information is optional. Please give the name you commonly use and your pronoun if you feel comfortable doing so.* |  |
| **FAMILY NAME**  Providing this information is optional. |  |
| **CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS** |  |
| **UNIVERSITY YOU WORK OR STUDY AT** |  |
| **JOB TITLE OR DEGREE YOU ARE STUDYING FOR**  *Providing this information is optional.* |  |
| **CURRENT ROLE**  *Providing this information is mandatory.  Delete as appropriate* | YUFE Student Journey participant **yes/no**  Member of staff at a YUFE partner **yes/no**  Student of a YUFE partner **yes/no**  Alumnus of a YUFE partner **yes/no** |
| **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT INFORMATION, IN ADDITION TO THAT PROVIDED ABOVE, YOU ARE WILLING/WOULD LIKE TO BE PUBLISHED**  *Providing this information is optional. We are looking for any information that might be relevant to your story such as your age and your background.* |  |
| **OPTIONAL PHOTO OF YOURSELF** | If you are happy for a picture to accompany your story, please attach a photo of yourself when you submit your completed form to [diversity@essex.ac.uk](mailto:diversity@essex.ac.uk) |



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