



British International School Riyadh

The art of making life memorable

One of the main reasons to go to university is to store up more interesting things to remember than school trips, weddings and disastrous family holidays. On the other hand, university can be just as mundane as a wet fortnight in Blackpool unless you actually do something memorable.

So make sure that before you leave you have done a few things that you've never done before - and may never do again - such as reading a novel in French or spending the night in a field. And don't forget to do all the corny stuff. In summer, have a picnic in the sun, fall in love, eat strawberries, go to a ball, cycle to a music festival. In winter, toast marshmallows, go skating, throw up in a bin. Also, seize any opportunity you get to travel.

Always make sure you do stuff with other people, so that you will be able to reminisce with them later. Few university memories are inspired by solitary swotting in a study bedroom.

Certainly, once exams are out of the way, you really don't need to worry about remembering what you've been studying. Unless you become an academic, or possibly a doctor, it probably won't have the slightest relevance to the rest of your life.

There are a couple of exceptions to this. If you are being taught by a Nobel prize-winner or a media don, you will want to remember that you were taught by them. Ideally, you should also recall something they said. If you get the chance to attend a lecture by a star speaker, such as Bono or Osama bin Laden, go.

Name-dropping is one of the main purposes of university nostalgia - especially if you went to Oxbridge - so try to keep in with future stars. Dabble in university politics and journalism, get bit parts in the most talked about theatre productions, hang out with the year's most strikingly beautiful student.

Don't be so intimidated by the scarily bright, confident members of your peer group that you never get around to speaking to them. They will be much more scary once they actually become prime minister, and by that time you could be reminiscing together about the time you went skinny-dipping.

Even if you are the scarily confident future star yourself, it is a good idea to share your memorable moments with other people rather than dwelling on them alone. That way they could later be recalled fondly for a profile piece in a magazine.

And beware of spending too much time wallowing in university nostalgia. It suggests you haven't been doing anything all that interesting since.