# Diversity video transcript

“I work as a marketing officer for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and I’m from Spain.”

“My name is Clem, I’m 24 and I come from the South of France.”

“Right now I work at the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies as an Arabic teaching fellow. I am originally from the city of Aleppo in Syria.”

“25 years ago, 30 years ago, when I was first starting out, the world was a very different place and was a lot less forgiving shall we say. But I know that legislation has changed, I know that the University has policies in place that protect me. As a gay woman, I think anybody has a nervousness, but when every single time you meet somebody new you have to pre-empt what their reaction is going to be, you have to make a judgement call really really quickly as to whether it is important for you to out yourself at that point.”

“I’m Director of Procurement at the University. I’ve been here for over 16 years now, although it doesn’t seem that long looking back. My job involves working across the whole University. I have had some difficulties with my hearing. My hearing has deteriorated in the time that I’ve been here and I’ve now got two hearing aids and they go fine. As far as my day to day working is concerned, you know, it’s not an issue for me. Mostly I can hear fine and if I can’t hear I speak up and say so.”

“The whole background is different. The cultural background, the approaches between teachers and students is completely different. When we were students at the University we were unable to raise our eyes and look in the eye and speak with our teachers when we were talking to them or discussing things with them. But here it’s more comfortable talking to students and talking to teachers.”

“I’m originally from Northern Ireland. When I first arrived at Edinburgh University it was 2006 and I was the only gay person in our office. It was kind of a talking point. I remember some people not being sure if they could directly reference it to me, you know, as if it would insult me some way, or it was such a private issue that they couldn’t bring it up. There’s a definite change from when I started to now. It might have something to do with the University becoming more open and how they are really pushing the equality agenda a lot on their side and that’s kind of filtering through into the general, you know, mind-set of the University.”

“The community is very international. Not only the students, but the academics and the support staff and I think there is a very open mentality where the difference that people bring is welcomed, respected and nurtured. I feel like whoever you are and wherever you come from you can find a home here.”