

TRANSFER STUDENT PEER MENTOR PROGRAM



Louisa Kennedy

Hometown: Ghent, Belgium

Major: Environment and Natural Resources; Elementary Education

Personal Interests: Backpacking, rafting, backcountry skiing, and playing outside with my dog!

Campus Involvement:

President of the Environment and Natural Resource Club

Tau Sigma National Honor Society member for transfer students

Current scholar and member of the Robert Noyce WITS program

How I can help as your peer mentor (and former transfer student):

Outside of being very personable, I am able to offer advice for questions that most transfer students share. Through my experiences at the university, I have come across a multitude of resources that I would love to pass along and ensure that the transfer process not only goes well, but is enjoyable overall. Specifically regarding the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources as well as the College of Education, I am able to share the connections I have made with professors, administrators, and students alike in order to help students find a place in which they feel as though they belong.

What was I nervous about?

Due to my interests in outdoor education, environmental stewardship, and many other avenues, I was unsure if there would be a community in Laramie that would also have such interests, as well as be inviting to new people. This was my main point of instability when transferring to UW, yet I found an active outdoor community that fosters great relationships as well as powerful resources for making a difference for the community and surrounding environment. Examples include programs and trips with the Outdoor Program at the University, classes on campus that directly involve students with environmental issues (such as the Pilot Hill Project), and several opportunities to

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participate in activities and clubs that work towards sharing information and improving relationships with things such as land rights and species protection.

What was I excited about?

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources really excited me at the University. I had conducted research on their professors as well as opportunities and they provide a very unique experience. Additionally, the multitude of scholarships available in the state of Wyoming and especially at UW was great.

Advice for an incoming transfer student:

My biggest piece of advice is to find and utilize the incredible amount of resources in which the university and Laramie community provides. Asking questions, finding mentors, and creating relationships with faculty and students are all keys to not only academic success but personal growth overall.

What is it like being a transfer student at UW?

It is very welcoming! There are so many people at the university that have commonalities, and due to the large amount of transfer students, there is a shared community on that trait alone. The amount of support and resources provided ensure that transfer students have all the tools they need to have an absolutely wonderful and knowledge-filled experience during their time at the university.