

## VSS Attendee Testimonial – Claire Kennedy

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Lorna Gilkison: Hello there, we are welcomed today by a student who regularly attends the library lounge virtual study sessions. She's going to tell us a bit more about them. Hello, what is your name?

00:00:14.429 --> 00:00:14.849

Claire Kennedy: Claire.

00:00:17.039 --> 00:00:18.450

Lorna Gilkison: What year are you in Claire?

00:00:19.350 --> 00:00:25.110

Claire Kennedy: I'm a first year PhD student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department.

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Lorna Gilkison: Wow, okay Thank you. So, you've been coming to the virtual sessions. What made you initially sign up to the sessions?

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Claire Kennedy: And I initially got an email, I think it came from the library just as a notification that they would be running these sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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Claire Kennedy: And when I did my masters, also at University of Strathclyde, I did most of my dissertation in the library, I found it helped me concentrate. So, working remotely I thought this would be something that would assist with giving me a chance to focus and actually dedicate some time to it.

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Lorna Gilkison: Brilliant! I didn't realize that you had done your undergraduate at Strathclyde. Your Postgraduate and your masters at Strathclyde as well.

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Lorna Gilkison: So, what did you hope to get, so you're saying that, basically, it was around being able to focus more? Was that what you really hoped to get from the sessions?

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Claire Kennedy: yeah, I mean I'd found like obviously starting my master's I mean PhD remotely not really having any contact with people.

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Claire Kennedy: I was finding I was getting a little distracted at home, you know I'd go off and do something else and try work and

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Claire Kennedy: it would not be so successful, so I was hoping that you know joining these sessions would allow me to set a time aside, where I could focus on the work and actually get something done.

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Lorna Gilkison: And did that work for you, what did you get out of the sessions or what have you got out of the sessions that you've been to so far?

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Claire Kennedy: So yeah, they've been they've been very helpful to me I find probably I get the most work done in those two-hour time slots compared to the entire rest of the week.

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Claire Kennedy: It's also been like a good way to connect with the university and with the library staff, because obviously not being in Scotland I feel sort of isolated so

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Claire Kennedy: it's nice to have the other PhD students there or master students or whoever joins these sessions and

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Claire Kennedy: knowing that they are working in the background as well keeps me at my desk less distracted so that's definitely what I get out of it.

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Claire Kennedy: And it's also been great to know that you know there's other students that have their good days and their bad days as well, so it's kind of like a camaraderie and togetherness, rather than this isolation.

00:02:45.210 --> 00:02:51.360

Lorna Gilkison: that's excellent I feel the same as well, when I when I'm there I feel really focused as well.

00:02:51.570 --> 00:02:54.510

Lorna Gilkison: Where is it you are studying Claire? Whereabouts are you? Are you far away?

00:02:55.320 --> 00:02:57.150

Claire Kennedy: Yes, I'm in South Africa.

00:02:57.690 --> 00:03:01.170

Lorna Gilkison: Wow so you're really a distance from the University, then?

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Claire Kennedy: Yes, I can't just pop past, even with the library opening now so.

00:03:05.940 --> 00:03:11.370

Claire Kennedy: Great that they've extended the sessions until August I think, end of August for now?

00:03:11.640 --> 00:03:12.870

Lorna Gilkison: At the moment that's right.

00:03:13.110 --> 00:03:17.280

Lorna Gilkison: Is there anything else that you'd like to say about the sessions? Anything else you'd like to share about them?

00:03:18.030 --> 00:03:24.240

Claire Kennedy: Um yeah, I think one of the other things that I find very helpful is being able to ask the library staff questions.

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Claire Kennedy: You know, especially with referencing and Endnote and I've just started using Endnote myself, so I keep coming across questions, you know I do a little bit

00:03:33.630 --> 00:03:50.130

Claire Kennedy: come up with a question and then need help and then being able to ask yourself or Lynsey or any other library staff just to assist with that as being great so rather than getting distracted finding, trying to find the information it's it's nice to get the help.

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Claire Kennedy: As well as um, you know also finding out other information about the library staff so

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Claire Kennedy: It was assisted for me to have a meeting with Alistair so the Faculty Librarian and myself, and that was really helpful, and I think it was Lynsey that set that up for me.

00:04:10.260 --> 00:04:18.120

Claire Kennedy: Because you know a good kickstart to get things going, otherwise I might have been like Oh, I see it, but I'm not going to do it so yeah.

00:04:18.630 --> 00:04:33.540

Lorna Gilkison: that's excellent, thank you very much, Claire. It's so interesting to hear because everybody has everybody takes slightly different things from each session so it's really interesting to hear your point of view, and we really appreciate you joining us today thanks again.