

Students Net Help

Katie Davies

A new website has been launched to provide help and information for students of any age and at any stage in their life.

FRESHTIES.com enables people of all ages and backgrounds to share personal experiences and knowledge in the areas of Study, Career, Lifestyle and Interests. Using the website, students can network with others who have experienced similar situations - including applying for college or university, taking time out to travel, returning to work after having children or advice on being an entrepreneur - to help them decide what they want to do next in their education or career.

Due to its informal set-up and straightforward menus, the website is easy to use. There is also space for users to create blogs and act as mentors, again providing facts in an informal and creative way.

Former student Ashish Poddar, creator of FRESHTIES.com, described his site as “breaking down social barriers [and] reducing the knowledge gap so people of all backgrounds have access to the contacts, information and experiences so that everyone has an opportunity to strive for their goals in life. And who better than the student movement to carry the message of power to all, instead of the few.”

To access the website, users just need to register a username, password and email address. All contact and communication is anonymous and membership is currently free. Also the site promises not to sell users details to other organisations. Critics have praised the site as it benefits both new students and those helping them, as well as promoting education and helping people make the right choices.