

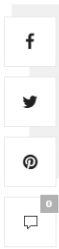


COLLEGE LIFE

The Truth About Working At A College Town Bar

JUNE 12 by NATALIE ZISA

Like 24 Tweet SAVE SHARE



Katelyn Megan, a senior at UMass, knows firsthand what it's like to be the sober person in a bar full of intoxicated people. As a bartender at LIT in Amherst, Massachusetts, she's working when most of the people her age are out drinking. One of the many bars in a college town, LIT currently employs 15 bartenders, all which are college students. Of the 15, 5 are guys and the rest are girls. Katelyn previously worked as a waitress and both her father and brother were bartenders, so she knew what to expect when she began working long hours and cleaning up after drunk college students. Katelyn shares with the Lala her pet peeves, if it's cool to drink on the job, and more.



On the long hours: As an athlete on the field hockey team at UMass, Katelyn says it's the only job whose hours fit into her schedule. But that cleaning up after closing is the absolute worst part of the shift. Katelyn says that clean up takes at least 2 hours and she usually doesn't get home until 3 in the morning. The girls are also required to wear heels which makes being on her feet for 6 hours much more painful. Katelyn still puts school first and her boss is understanding in giving her a night off if she has a game or a test the next day.

"My management is extremely caring about their employees. While they let us know that we're replaceable, they do everything they can to accommodate our needs and understand that we're just college students trying to make money and that we still want to have a good time."

When asked what the protocol was for drinking on the job, Katelyn prefers not to.

"If someone offers to buy me a drink, I normally say they shouldn't waste their money on me and suggest another person they can buy a drink for. But when my friends come into the bar and they want me to have a beer with them, I don't see a problem in this because I know my limits and understand that I'm at my job."



When friends come into the bar, Katelyn admits she gets a bit distracted because she would rather stay and talk to them, which diverts her attention away from other customers. But if anything, having her friends there only makes the night better.

"I believe that when my friends come and we're loud and happy with each other that it only adds to the good vibes that are supposed to be at a bar. Also, knowing people that come into the bar makes me look good in front of my boss. Every bar owners wants his bartenders to attract more customers."

Her view on the college drinking culture:



Now that Katelyn has been able to view the college drinking culture from a different perspective, she says, "I believe the house and frat parties that people go to before they're old enough for the bars say a lot more about the college drinking culture than the bars do. People get crazier at those things. But seeing how often certain people go to my bar makes me ask myself, "how are these broke college kids affording all of this alcohol?"

Flirting, free drinks, and being a female bartender:

"I actually find that girls are more likely to wait for the male bartenders to serve them so they can flirt whereas the guys at the bar will just go to whoever can get them a drink faster. A lot of my co-workers actually use their flirtation abilities to get more tips, which I appreciate because we pool our tips. There is the occasional stud who thinks he'll score a free beer flirting with one of the female bartenders, but they quickly learn that this will never happen. I personally don't take flirting very well. Alcohol makes people do and say stupid stuff, and to me that's not worthy of a smile."

Her pet peeves:

"I find it annoying when people ask for free drinks or they say the drink doesn't taste like there's alcohol in it. The BuzzFeed video called "Things Bartenders Want You to Stop Doing" actually sums it up pretty nicely."

If people do ask her to make the drink stronger, she obliges, but over the years she's learned tricks of the trade. She's learned to put a little alcohol on the straw so the first few sips taste strong.

Her worst night:

From underage kids sneaking in to guys starting fights with each other (which happens on a weekly basis), Katelyn has experienced her fair share of drama. She recalls one night when underage students managed to sneak in to the bar, even though fake IDs are not easily accepted at LIT. That same night, the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) happened to be checking the bar for underage drinking and questioned the students, as well as Katelyn because she was found serving them.

"The cop gave me a speech about how it would be my fault if they died. But we have bodyguards at the door so I assume everyone inside is 21," adds Katelyn.

Best part of the job:


Another pro to the gig is the social aspect. Katelyn likes being in an outgoing environment that involves dancing and music, where she gets to experience the nightlife but makes money, instead of spending it. Plus, being the sober one in a drunk atmosphere means she sees *everything*.

"You will never believe the things you see as a bartender."

Overall, being a bartender has been a good experience for Katelyn.

"It has introduced me to new people and allowed me to become more outgoing and friendly in a place where a lot of people are guarded."

TAGS: BARS, BARTENDER, COLLEGE, COLLEGE BAR, DRINKING, LIT AMHERST



NATALIE ZISA
NATALIE ZISA, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY MAJOR: COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA STUDIES/JOURNALISM HER HEART BELONGS TO: DANCE, HER FAMILY, AND THE BEACH HER GUILTY PLEASURES: BRUNCH, SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON INSTAGRAM, AND CARROT CAKE DONUTS FROM DOUGHNUT PLANT TAKE HER AWAY TO: LITERALLY ANYWHERE IN ITALY - OR AN ISLAND

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)



NO COMMENTS YET

Comments are closed

Related News




FOLLOW US



STAY CONNECTED

Your email address


Your email address



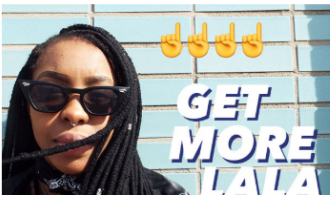
Advertise Here



Your email address



Advertise Here



Major



Twenty Things Every Twenty-Something Should Have

To Drink In Their Own Houses?

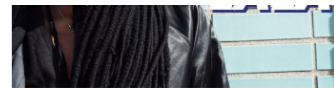


5 Perks Of Interning After College

Here's How To Deal



Every Stage I Went Through When I Quit Drinking



Advertise Here



BUSINESS



the lala

the Lala is the ultimate lifestyle destination for bright and adventurous college women. Leading the way in empowering media, the Lala stands behind a positive media mission dedicated to informing and inspiring college women from campuses across the world.



Copyright © 2017 the Lala Media Group, Inc.

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

LATEST POSTS

OCTOBER 6

21 Things To Do When The World Feels Like It's Full Of Hate

— Featured image via Anna Thetard Turn on the news. Chances are you'll get a...

OCTOBER 6

I'm Not Ready to Go Abroad (And That's Ok)

Featured image via @itsdemib As a rising junior and aspiring world traveler, I felt a...

OCTOBER 6

My Attempt To Unpack Privilege

Featured image via Anna Thetard It's a phrase we read and hear a lot these...

OCTOBER 5

For The Girl Who Chose An "Easy" Major

Featured image via Anna Schultz Raise your hand if you've ever been looked down upon...

OCTOBER 5

Why Aren't Sorority Women Allowed To Drink In Their Own Houses?

I've been to my fair share of frat parties so far in my college career...

TAGS

#advice advice beauty butler university career College college advice college life college music contributor bios dating DIY Fall Fashion fashion Featured feminism fordham university friends friendship fun girl power health indiana university inspiration instagram life advice love makeup marketing & pr rep mental health MUSIC music new music Politics Purdue University relationships social media study abroad style summer Travel travel winter Women