Dear New Students,

Starting your first year at university in another country can feel daunting and stressful. Being far away from home and your family, possibly feeling isolated from your friends and loved ones, living in another country with a different set of customs and a new culture which may be very different to yours. All these things can be overwhelming and its perfectly fine to feel anxious about experiencing new things you may previously have not.

While waiting during summer for September to come, I felt so excited and impatient. I was very eager to finally start after months of being isolated and having limited opportunities to leave the house. Despite that, living in Clifton campus was lovely. The campus is quite small and filled with greenery so it's very nice to walk through, the students were nice and my roommates especially friendly.

During welcome week I got to experience freshers – which is a week of activities that you can sign up to so that you learn more about your campus, make friends, have fun and most importantly get some freebies. During welcome week, you also get to attend society fairs and get introduced to different societies, before eventually joining one if you would like. Also, during welcome week, I got to attend an event happening in the global lounge. The global lounge is especially dedicated to international students to come relax, play games, and socialise. I really enjoyed my time there.

Through my degree I was able to make amazing friends as well as develop my skill and techniques as an aspiring knitwear designer. I currently on a four-year degree which means I will be doing a sandwich year. The university has been so helpful and given me lots of support to find paid work placements through their industry connections. I'm also currently working part time through the university doing various jobs. These jobs have been so convenient and easy to manage, as well as work around my university timetable.

I chose to study at Nottingham Trent University because it's of excellent standard of teaching and its great student support. As well as because it's one of the best universities in England to study my degree. Studying here has improved my life skills, management of time and finance, as well as led me on a creative journey in which I've heavily developed my skills set to industry stand. Studying here has also created so many cherished memoires, diverse friendship groups and helped me feel supported. I hope you have an amazing experience here and enjoy your time in Nottingham Trent University as much as I did.

Rae Akinbo