

Hello,

Welcome to NTU. My name is Iember Ayabam. I am a first year undergraduate LLB (Hons) law student from Nigeria, and I am so excited to be writing to you right now! I can now say that coming to NTU was by far one of the best decisions of my life. From the beautiful architecture and the lovely parks to the vibrant city centre, Nottingham is arguably one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. It is also one of the most diverse places I have ever been, as the city is home to million and one vibrant cultures and languages.

As I write this letter, I remember exactly how I felt when I was in your shoes less than a year ago. How scared I was traveling on my own for the first time, worried that there would be an issue at some point and I wouldn't get to go to uni. The first few days were hard to process. I missed my family, my home, and the life and routine I had developed for six years. However, from new classmates to teaching staff, everyone here exceeded my expectations. Where I was expecting strict teachers and even stricter classes, I got supportive, welcoming, and helpful people and engaging, eye-opening, and sometimes funny conversations. With time, I began to feel like I belonged to my seminar group, and although the work was at times confusing, the detailed lectures and engaging seminars made the course more understandable and fun. I was truly overwhelmed by the amount of support offered at NTU, and was always excited to apply what I had learned in lectures to the problem questions during seminars.

Here are a few words of advice that I wish I had when I was where you are now. Give yourself grace with those first few days or weeks. All big changes take time to adjust to, and this is one of the biggest changes of your life, so learn from your mistakes, and remember how far you've come. You got this! Staying at a student accommodation was probably one of the best decisions I made, as it gave me a chance to make new friends and interact with people who shared my student experience and could relate with me on a variety of different topics.

But most of all, have fun, make friends, join societies, partake in school events, go to the Global Lounge, a lot! It is, in my opinion, the best way and/or place to make friends, as there is always something going on from Tuesday till Friday. It also embodies the values of NTU as well as what NTU is all about. Remember, this is an opportunity that doesn't come around twice, so enjoy it while you can. Trust me, you have no idea how much fun awaits you.

Wishing you nothing but the best,
Iember Ayabam