

Nice to meet you!

I'm Mako, a Japanese student from Hong Kong about to finish my first year in BA Fashion Design here at Nottingham Trent University. First and foremost, congratulations on your acceptance to NTU! As a student myself, I know how stressful the whole process of applying to university is - so, I'm so proud of you for coming this far.

It feels like just yesterday that I got off the train and arrived at Nottingham, ready to begin my first year in uni. My worries immediately went away as soon as Freshers Week began and I started making new friends. I met my flatmates in my uni hall who were the best flatmates I could ask for; I joined the Oriental Society and met people who became my best friends (some of whom I'll be living with next year!); I began my course and met like minded individuals who constantly inspire me; I immediately felt like I belonged here. As a few months passed by, I began to settle into my new lifestyle; I started to teach myself to cook, began budgeting properly and used way less money, started getting in some regular exercise at the gym, spent more time on school work, and matured greatly overall. My Fashion Design course has a wonderful balance of theoretical and practical work, which has allowed me to realise my potential and develop my technical skills to be ready for the industry.

For us international students, it's difficult to say the least, being away from home for almost a year and having to adjust to a new life in a new country. However, even before you arrive in the city, NTU offers amazing support and guidance that prepares you for your arrival and your time at university. With hundreds of societies and clubs to join, you'll definitely find your place and your people here, whilst preparing yourself for the future through the high-quality teaching in all courses. With events such as Global Week and other activities frequently organised in the Global Lounge, NTU will become your second home as an international student.

Whilst I could give you hundreds of advice about coming here, I just want you to remember one thing; take risks. Whether it's to join a society, start a new sport, begin a conversation with someone, or go to a social event, take every opportunity that you get because you never know what you'll get from it. Your first year is the best time to make new connections and try new things, so don't waste a chance to discover yourself. NTU is truly a place for everyone, and I assure you with utmost confidence that you've made the right decision in coming here. Best of luck in September, you got this!

Mako Kawada