

To you,

First thing's first. Congratulations! Getting into university is not easy. I have no doubt that your family is proud of you. Please be proud of yourself too. You are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime; it's daunting and nerve-wracking and also exciting but don't worry, it will be okay. That's a promise. Secondly, I must introduce myself. My name is Rumbidzai-Davidzo and I am an International student from Zimbabwe. I am in first year, studying Wildlife Conservation on the Brackenhurst Campus. I moved to Nottingham in September of 2022 from across the world and I survived...phew!

I come from Harare, which means "the city that never sleeps" but if you ask me, Nottingham is the real city that never sleeps. Though I learn on Brackenhurst, I live in the city. I wanted to get a feel of real city life in my first year and I do not regret it. There is so much to do in Nottingham, you literally never get bored. Nottingham is a hub of cultural history and the city is filled with modern contemporary activities while still maintaining and promoting its rich history. The best part is how easily accessible it all is; almost everything is a walk away. The city transport system makes the commute to Brack campus smooth and I get the best of both worlds.

The University itself is a cornucopia of culture and diversity, teeming with enthusiastic individuals from all over the world. I assure you that you will not struggle to find people from the same cultural background as you to gel with. NTU has so many teams dedicated to making your journey easier. The International Team and all its different subjects are some of the friendliest people you will meet and they are there for one main purpose; to help you. Please never feel afraid to ask for help. And if you get stuck, you can go to the Global Lounge. You will never feel lonely there. NTU offers a multitude of sports and cultural societies that you can participate in. You will never get bored.

And if I were to give you any advice it would be this. It's okay to be afraid. Just know that there is power in being afraid to do something and doing it anyway. Enjoy this journey to the fullest. Seize every moment and make memories. You are young and you have nothing to lose. Experience your life. Live! I believe in you. You got this!

Best of Luck

Rumbidzai-Davidzo