

Dear new student,

My name is Bayete Dudu Kalonga. I am a 2nd year undergraduate student studying Computer Science at Nottingham Trent University. I would like to congratulate you on your offer, and I am truly confident that you will be able to have a great experience being a part of NTU and studying here in Nottingham.

I remember when I got the news of my acceptance here. I was so excited and overwhelmed to finally get the chance to live abroad. Home is where the heart is, but it's always amazing to experience different things and cultures by travelling away from home for a while. I'm from Malawi, a small, warm, and friendly country in southeast Africa. Having to go to university away from home was always an experience I wanted to have once I graduated from secondary school. I had a mix of emotions the day I left home, but I couldn't wait to go on this new path in my journey.

I chose to come to NTU because I wanted to be in a university that was not only diverse since I am an international student but also had a great record of teaching excellence and student pass rates. I wanted to be in a safe and friendly environment where I could study and focus on getting my degree, but also a place where I could relax, make friends and create long-lasting memories. NTU seemed like the perfect fit for me, and I could be happier with my choice.

Settling into Nottingham was a different sort of experience than I had first hoped. I came through Nottingham Trent International College, so I first had to finish a foundation year before I began my course at NTU. It was alright for the most part until the pandemic first began. Those first 6 months I spent learning online were kind of difficult at first, but I was able to receive immense support from my tutors and peers that I was able to get the hang of things beforehand. And once the situations started to improve and more restrictions were loosened, it felt like I had experienced another period of life because things were more chaotic and stressful when I first arrived.

I can't wait until you're able to have your own experiences when you arrive in Nottingham. I have some pieces of advice I'd like to give you; take your time to make great friends as these will be the people, you'll make your memories with study as much as you can, it's good to rest but don't forget that your studies are why you're here. Join a club or sports team, travel if you can, and just make the most out of your time here. I hope you'll be able to have an amazing time here, and I wish you all the best with your studies and endeavours.

Kind regards

Bayete