

Dear student,

Hello! My name is Santiago Sanchez. I'm 19, Peruvian, and a 2nd year undergraduate biomedical engineering student at Nottingham Trent University. I'm very glad you will be joining NTU in 2023. I wanted to share my experience and give you some advice.

I chose NTU because of how simple the transition was from high school. The education curriculum in my country is quite different from the one in the UK (A Levels, GCSEs). I attended Nottingham Trent International College (NTIC) in 2021, and it was a seamless educational transition to university. Of course, I was worried about living alone and feeling homesick but mostly excited to be able to put my knowledge and skills to practice in higher education. I was excited, most of all, to study in English, which I considered a challenge.

Some of my favourite things about NTU are directly related to international topics. I visited the Global Lounge for the first time during my second year. It is a very comfortable, safe space where you can relax and talk with other students from all around the world. I was even able to meet fellow Peruvians and participate in the Global Week, an event where you can present your culture to the rest of the students and learn from their cultures as well.

You can practice some languages during the Language Café or even volunteer to teach your own. I decided to take my foreign language hobby to another level and enrol in ULP (University Language Programme), which allowed me to take additional foreign language courses apart from my degree. There are many more opportunities NTU gave me to develop my hobbies and interests, including the NTU Music Scholarship, where you audition to keep practicing an instrument for free. I was very glad I did not have to leave my music behind.

I was surprised there could be so much more to enjoy than just my degree. NTU proved me that university is a stage where you can explore your interests fully and feel supported and appreciated. You can engage in additional learning, sports, clubs, societies, volunteering, and are encouraged to give back to the student body through roles like the International Student Ambassador, my role through which I am writing this letter and able to advise students like you through this new journey. I cannot wait for you to start your university experience and learn more about yourself and I wish you the best!

Santiago Sanchez