

Hello,

I am Zoe, and I am a final year Fine Art student. Congratulations on getting an offer here at Nottingham Trent University.

I was nervous and excited at the same time. I'm excited about starting a new chapter of my life. I was thrilled to study the course that I liked. However, I was very nervous about living independently in a country I had never been to. I spent nights imagining living apart from my family for the first time, not getting used to the food, and couldn't make new friends. Until I arrived at my accommodation in Nottingham.

I chose to live in student accommodation during my first year in Nottingham. My fear immediately dropped once I started talking to my flatmates. They were very welcoming and friendly. Most importantly, we were all in a similar situation, so we could share our experiences and help each other out. Looking back, I miss the shared kitchen the most in our flat because it is a common area where everything happened. We can do coursework, sit down and chat after a tiring day, and share food there.

The university provides a variety of opportunities for students. For example, my course often organises study trips for us to visit galleries within the UK. It allows us to not only get inspired but also meet people outside of the university. There are dedicated studio spaces and workshops in my course. The studio spaces are open planned, so we have a chance to talk to all year groups to share our ideas. We can also book different workshops such as woodworking, metal, and ceramic workshops to support our art practice. Also, it is important to take the opportunities outside of the university. It helps to build your confidence, develop skills, and gain experience. In my case, I have volunteered in a few organisations and worked part-time before.

As an international student myself, I understand that stepping out of my comfort zone is never easy. There will be broad challenges waiting for you but remember challenging yourself is what help you grow. You will find that there is no big deal once you overcome the challenges.

Last but not least, Nottingham is such a vibrant city. Don't forget to explore the city when you are free. My favourite things to do at the weekend are visiting galleries and enjoying food from around the world with friends. Life at NTU will be the most valuable and fun few years. I am sure you will make amazing memories here.

Best wishes for a new chapter ahead,

Zoe Chu