



## *Dear future student*

*The thought of moving to another country may be scary. That's how I felt when I made the decision to move to the UK and study at NTU. I've lived in the Philippines for 26 years, and this is the first time I've been away from my country and my family. Moving to the UK really pushed me to find my "lakas ng loob", a Filipino word for courage and inner strength, and figure out how to stand on my own. I even celebrated my birthday here, which made the experience extra memorable. Over time, Nottingham Trent University has become my second home.*

*I mainly chose NTU because of its reputation, especially in Arts and Design. I have worked in the advertising industry for over five years, but the thought of further developing my practice and strengthening my art skills had not left my mind. When I found out about NTU's MA Graphic Communication program, I instantly fell in love with the school. With the range of events, activities, and societies that NTU offers, I really felt like there was a place where I could belong. And true enough, I found my people here. I joined a swimming taster and also the SEMP (Sound Engineering and Music Production) Society, where I met international friends from different courses.*

*I have also enjoyed all the new experiences I've had here, like performing for a crowd at a Bandeoke (my first time, by the way!), going to parties at Rock City, attending a local church service, and exploring the city and other parts of the country with my new friends. Altogether, these experiences made settling into Nottingham easier for me.*

*In my course, there was a module called Culture and Collaboration, where we worked with students from other courses. I can say it was one of the highlights of my first term because I gained a new friend who has now become my very close friend—or my best friend. She's a local, so I was able to learn firsthand how to adapt to British culture and the environment. Another highlight was our field trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, a very large and beautiful park that is both visually relaxing and inspiring.*

*We also had multiple projects where we worked on live briefs, presented to clients, and even had the chance to enter international competitions, like the D&AD New Blood Awards. These were exactly the opportunities I had been looking forward to before entering NTU, and I am glad to say that I am very satisfied and excited for what's next.*

*Overall, this journey has broadened my perspective as a designer and as a person, and I'm so proud of my decision to come here. I hope that by sharing my story, I can inspire fellow Filipinos and anyone dreaming of studying abroad in the UK.*

*Warm regards,*

*Hannah Chelsea May C. Duran*



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