

Dear Future Student



My name is Dulithna Dissanayake, and I am a first-year student studying Physics with Nuclear Technology at NTU. I chose NTU because of its strong academic reputation and the wide range of opportunities it offers to students. Its recognition as one of the top universities in the UK for employability and course quality, along with the guarantee of employment support within six months of graduation, really stood out to me. Another major factor in my decision was the option of a one-year industrial placement, which I see as a valuable opportunity to gain real-world experience. NTU's strong links with organisations such as CERN and Rolls-Royce, both of which are my dream workplaces, also played a huge role in my choice.

After joining the university, I quickly realised how practical and hands-on my course is. We are given amazing opportunities, such as working with Rolls-Royce as part of our first-year coursework and carrying out real-world experiments, which have been incredibly exciting. I was also awarded the NTU Excellence Scholarship, which further reinforced my decision and made me feel truly supported by the university.

Moving to the UK was both exciting and terrifying for me. It was my first time living alone, and I had never travelled or lived independently before. While it was scary, I was also excited to explore a new country and learn how to take care of myself. This experience has helped me become far more independent and confident. When I first arrived in Nottingham, everything felt unfamiliar, as life here is very different from Sri Lanka.

However, I adapted quickly, and the experience of learning how things work in a new environment was incredibly rewarding.

Settling into life at NTU was made much easier through the university's welcome events, which helped me meet new people and make friends. To be honest, I initially struggled with socialising because I was under 18 at the time and couldn't attend many events, and I am naturally quite introverted. However, both staff and students at NTU are extremely kind and supportive, and they helped me feel comfortable and included. I live on campus with friendly flatmates, and we often play board games and spend time together, which has made university life much less lonely.

The Global Lounge has also been a wonderful space for meeting people from different countries and cultures. They host various activities such as games and craft sessions, which make it easy to build friendships and connections. Within my course, I have met many like-minded people, and everyone from students to lecturers has been very welcoming. Tutor groups, welcome week activities, enrichment weeks, and course-specific events all helped us get to know one another and build strong connections.

One of my favourite experiences so far has been the Alton Towers field trip as part of our mechanics module. Not only was it an exciting learning experience, but it also helped me make my best friend at university. I have also really enjoyed group projects and enrichment week activities, as they allowed me to collaborate with others, share ideas, and learn from my peers. The lecturers are incredibly supportive and always willing to help, which makes a huge difference.

To anyone considering coming to NTU, I would say that it may feel scary at first, but taking that first step can be one of the best decisions you ever make. Moving to a new place can feel overwhelming, but NTU offers countless opportunities to get involved and plenty of support whenever you need it. Don't be afraid to explore, join societies, talk to new people, and make the most of what's available to you. If I could do it, so can you. Most importantly, don't stress too much, give yourself time to adjust, enjoy the experience, and make the most of every opportunity.

Warm regards,

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