

International Student Spotlight Interview



Name: Weldensie Embaye

Year at K-State: Graduate Student (PhD Student)

Major: Agricultural Economics

Home country: Eritrea

What was it like coming to K-State? How did you decide to come here?

I decided to come here for PhD program in Agricultural Economics.

What has your experience been like so far?

It has been great, perfect.

What were some of the big differences when you first arrived (social, academic, weather, etc.)? Was there anything that was really surprising?

The classroom setting. (See below)

Was K-State what you expected? Was Manhattan what you expected?

K-State was what I expected, but I thought Manhattan would be bigger. But with it being smaller, there are less distractions and it's easier to focus on your studies.

Is classroom culture a lot different here?

Here it is a bit different, the U.S. is different from other countries in the sense that the professors are friendlier. You're more vulnerable as a student in the classroom. That makes the students more confident, more interactive, and more involved in the leadership. Otherwise, the technology is similar. The difference is all in the professors.

What do you like about being a student at K-State?

What I like most at K-State is the students. The study style, my objective is to complete my studies, in a way that I feel that I have enough knowledge to work with in my profession. The knowledge that I'm gaining.

What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

I am involved in research as my part-time job, assistantship. I am involved with different organizations – research council, the African Student Union, Agricultural Economics Student Union. A balance of academic and social.

What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

I go out to Aggieville, different places in Manhattan with my friends.

If you could have known one thing before moving here, what would it be?

I would talk about the quality of education here. I would try to come here soonest possible if I knew the quality of education here.

Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

My main advice is to really prepare and come and complete their studies here at K-State. Prepare based on the department requirements and to plan as much as they can because not everyone can come here.

What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?

It's a great opportunity for domestic students when they have more international students here, when they can know what's going on in other countries by having friends from international students. Domestic students should have international student friends. We shouldn't always restrict our mind or our attitude about somebody. I really appreciate friendship with differences rather than someone who has less difference. Domestic students should learn and benefit from international students by having at least some friends.

Would you mind sharing a phrase from your native language and what it means?

መን ምክንያት ከነግረክ ምስ መን ከም ትከይድ ንገረኒ - "Tell me with whom you walk and I will tell you who you are."