

International Student Spotlight Interview



NAME: Oluwatobiloba Adenuga

YEAR AT K-STATE: Junior

MAJOR: Biology

HOME COUNTRY: Nigeria

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

It was interesting, overwhelming and scary. I had spent six years of boarding school in high school but I had never been fully away from my family. If I needed to see them, they were just an hour-drive away. It was interesting for me because I was coming to experience something different from what I was used to, I was integrating myself into an entirely new society and culture, and that was overwhelming. I had applied to schools and had got accepted. I made a decision towards K-State because I wanted something different, I grew up in a big city and Manhattan seemed like the complete opposite, I also wanted somewhere really quite and welcoming, a place that had a sense of family and it won't be hard to settle in.

What has your experience been like so far?

My experience has been full of learning new things every day. I get to learn about different cultures, people, Manhattan and K-State. I love the environment at K-State its really friendly and very welcoming. You rarely feel different or alone because there is always someone willing to be your friend, willing to help and willing to help you fit in.

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

A very big difference between here and back home is definitely the weather. It never gets above 90 or below 70 in my city back home in Nigeria. Even though I expected the weather to be this way, I was extremely surprised by the "bipolar-ness" of the weather, you might just experience all the seasons in one week because its Kansas. Another big difference was how friendly people are, there is always someone willing to help and show you the way.

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

K-State was definitely what I had expected. I probably should have done more homework about the grading system, which is quite different from back home. I was shocked the first day of my Principles of Biology class, when I got the syllabus and saw the grading system. Manhattan I expected to be a quiet, small friendly town and that was exactly what it turned out to be. It's a safe place to be because people are always looking out for you.

Is classroom culture a lot different here?

It is really different here than home. We have a lot of quizzes, homework and exams spread out over the semester. In Nigeria, we have projects and exams and that's it, it's a lot harder back home because it's not as spread out. Also scheduling of classes is very convenient, you have more of a say here when you take your classes, unlike in Nigeria, where your classes for your duration of your degree are at a fixed time.

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

I love the sense of family, I also love the school spirit and that I get to be a part of such an awesome experience. I love the faculty and staff here at K-State, they are always willing to help you in the best way that they can and that just encourages me as a student.

What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

I have a job at the Academic Resource Center on campus; we offer tutoring and answer any questions students may have. Basically we are just here to help students. Also I am involved with the International Coordinating Council as a member. I also used to be an officer of International Buddies, what the organization does is to pair international students with domestic students, not just to gain a friend but also to learn from each other. Finally, I was an officer in the African Student Union on campus.

What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

I'll rather just stay in my room after a long week and watch a movie or read a book but when I do decide to go out, I like going for events at the McCain Theater, International student events, UPC events, and Football and basketball games.

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

That I needed a form of transportation to get around, the ATA bus that runs is a good idea but it just doesn't cover it all. Unfortunately, I can't ride a bike so please do learn how to ride one if you don't, they are really helpful.

Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

Don't be too nervous about starting in a new place, you're going to make new friends and you're going to love it. Also don't get carried away as to why you came here which is to study, sometimes it's easy to keep that aside with all the fun things you could do.

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

It's definitely challenging because everything is different. You have to work twice as hard especially if you don't speak English.

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

lé ọba tójó ẹwà ló bùsi The literal translation is “The king’s palace that got burnt added beauty to it” and the meaning is “Every cloud has a silver lining”