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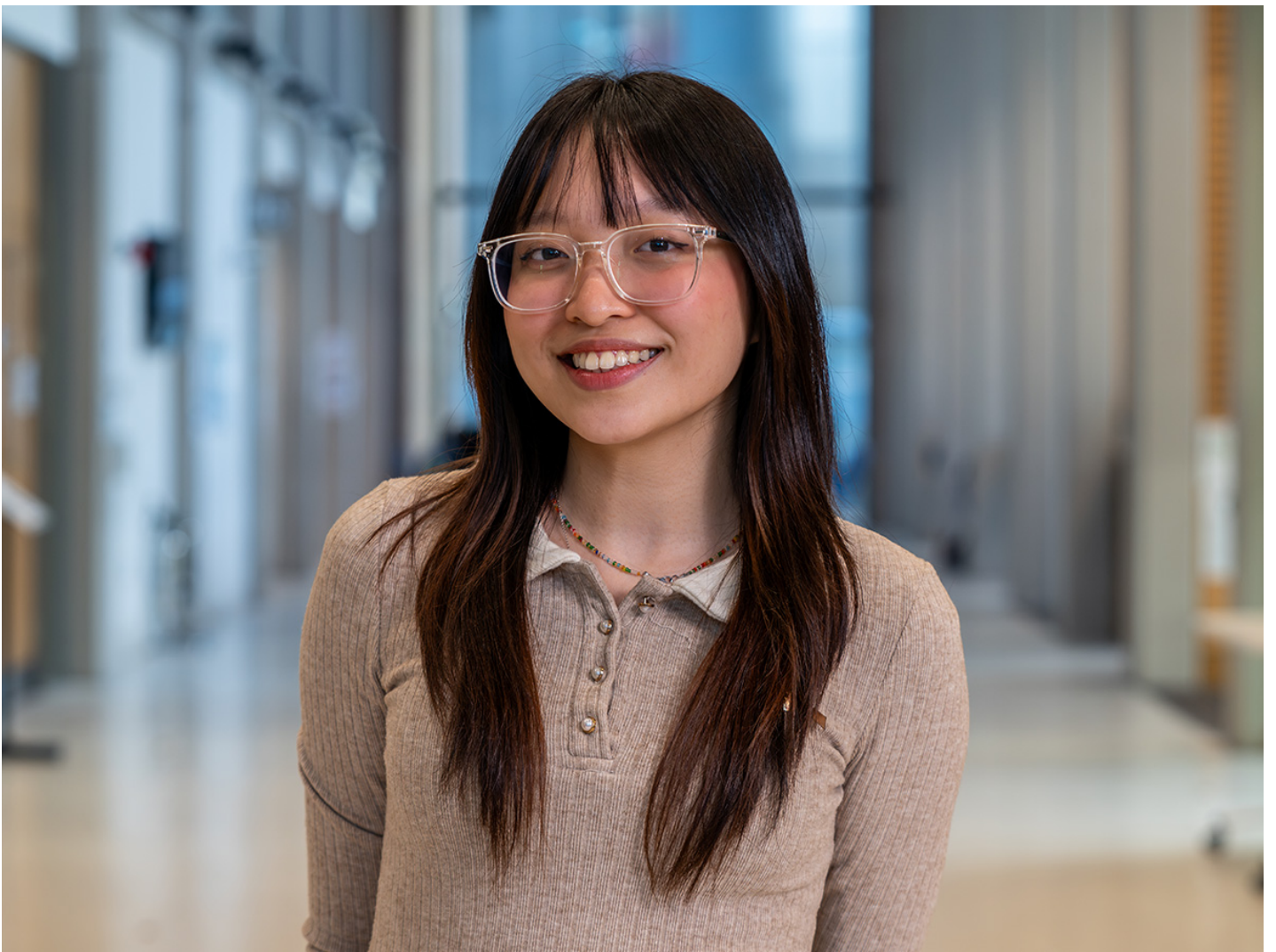
Blog

My first few months as an international student

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Chloe is a Vietnamese student currently pursuing an **MSc Marketing** at the University of Birmingham.



Leaving Vietnam for the UK was both thrilling and daunting, but the experiences I've had in these first few months have been truly transformative. From cultural surprises to academic challenges, join me as I recount the memorable moments during my early days as an international student!

Landing in Birmingham

The entry process into the UK was quick and smooth. As soon as I stepped outside, the crisp, chilly air of September enveloped me – truly my first impression of the famously foggy country.

On the way from the airport to my accommodation, I was fortunate to pass by the university. The sight of the Old Joe clocktower standing tall against the skyline was captivating. Seeing such a landmark in person, something I'd only ever seen in pictures, was a surreal experience. After settling in a bit, I went to the university to collect my Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) and student ID card, completing my first official tasks in the UK.

Settling into my accommodation

I started looking for accommodation about four months before coming to the UK, which allowed me to find a place near the university with an affordable rent. This early preparation made my transition much smoother and gave me peace of mind knowing I had a cosy place.

Once I arrived, I took some time to explore the neighbourhood. Walking around the area, I discovered several supermarkets nearby, which would be convenient for my grocery shopping.

Adjusting to Academic Life

The most important part! Compared to what I was used to in Vietnam, the teaching style here is much more interactive and focused on critical thinking. During classes, there are many opportunities to engage with professors and guest speakers through open discussions, quizzes, and case studies. This approach provides a good balance between theories and practical applications.

It took me around two weeks to get comfortable with this, but I soon found myself enjoying the intellectual stimulation. The resources available, such as the library and academic support centres, were incredibly helpful.

Making new friends

I'm sure you've heard about the vibrant international student community at the University of Birmingham. Right from the start, the university hosts Open Days during the first week to help students feel welcomed and get settled in. My tips are to keep an eye on the university newsletter and attend as many events as you can. The orientation activities and student societies are the perfect opportunities to meet new people and make connections.

Some of my closest friends are ones I met at these events, and I absolutely love the chance to connect with people from all over the world. It's been such a rewarding part of my experience here!

