

### Fitting in Just Fine

It's hard to fit in to a totally new environment filled with different people from different cultures. Most of the time, we choose to shut ourselves from the world we are living in. Most of us are unwilling to try and blend-in with any new culture. Here are some stories of some international students who have made a special effort to make their experience here in UCSI the best that they can have.

**Name:** Ene Donald Somiari  
**Student ID:** 1000715509  
**Country:** River State, Nigeria  
**Course:** Mobile Computing  
**Active in:** UCSI Jujitsu Club



Meet Ene Donald Somiari or as his friends call him, Donald. Donald arrived at UCSI in January 2007 together with 250 of his fellow River State Scholarship students. "I came to UCSI to find fulfillment in my life by doing a course that I was aspired to do", claimed Donald when asked of what his expectations were before he came to UCSI. "I wanted to study Mobile Computing and I was overjoyed when I found out that UCSI would be offering this course", exclaims Donald once again. Donald transferred his credits from a degree course in Mechatronics to something that he is passionate about, one of UCSI's latest offerings, Mobile Computing.



Donald was determined to actively participate in Extra-Curricular activities but found it hard to find a suitable club. He eventually found a perfect fit in the Jujitsu Club. The club caught his eye as he had never been exposed to this particular form of martial arts before. "I wanted to learn something new and Jujitsu has taught me so much more than just a martial art discipline. I have more confidence in myself and am able to make the right

decisions when I am faced with adversity", Donald explained.

"Joining the Jujitsu club has also enabled me to befriend many locals. I have learned so much about their cultures and it is so much better than reading it

through a book”, says Donald. When asked about what words of advice he has to give to all international students of UCSI, Donald responded by saying “People will treat you with respect if you behave respectfully towards others. Treat others as how you would treat yourself.”

**Name:** Henry Tonye Angala  
**Student ID:** 1000715497  
**Country:** Rivers State, Nigeria  
**Course:** Foundation in Sc. Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
**Active in:** UCSI Christian Fellowship



Now let’s meet Henry, one of the scholarship students from River State, Nigeria. Henry arrived together with the 250 students in

January 2007 and what an experience it has been for him so far.

“I remember coming with an open mind,” says Henry. “I was excited to meet new people and learn new cultures. Coming to Malaysia gave me an opportunity to see the world outside Nigeria”, adds Henry.

Henry has done a number of things to help him adapt to the culture over here in Malaysia. Simple things like learning how to speak in Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese, visiting certain states in Malaysia and trying out the local food, has helped him to adapt better to the Malaysian way. “I visited Kuala Selangor to see the fire flies by the river. I also tried some Malaysian seafood dishes which tasted great”, says Henry. “I wish to visit more areas in Malaysia like the National Park in Sarawak, climb Mount Kinabalu in Sabah and visit many more historical sites”, explains Henry on his future plans to tour Malaysia.

Henry is also active in extra-curricular activities here in UCSI. He is a regular member at UCSI’s Christian Fellowship meetings on Friday afternoons. “The members in the Christian Fellowship really helped me adjust to life here in Malaysia. They are warm and friendly and accept me for who I am. They are also very open to learning about my culture”, says Henry.

When asked about advice for other international students at UCSI, he said “Always treat others with respect. Respect their culture and they will respect you. Always be willing to learn and adapt to other cultures.”