

Getting to grips with university dynamics

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AFTER attaining six distinctions in matric in 2010, the sky seemed to be the limit for Matimba Mabonda.

He received a bursary from ArcelorMittal to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town after *The Citizen* published his extraordinary story on his commitment and courage in achieving excellent results.

However, he soon realised one of the hardest tasks for him was to get to grips with the way university differs from high school.

Speaking to *The Super Saturday Citizen* earlier this week, Mabonda described his first three months at university as being the most difficult.

"When I first went to Cape Town, I had to adjust to the way of life and I couldn't focus all my energy on my studies," he said.

The 19-year-old's advice to students entering university for the first time is that like anything in life, preparation is key.

"This means talking to existing students on your course to get a real picture of how many lectures there will be and how to keep on top of the workload or live as a student," he said.



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first three months at university as being the most difficult. He says to new students that preparation is key.

For him one of the biggest differences from school to university is that lecturers won't keep nagging you about deadlines, or even tell you how many hours of study you should be doing.

"Instead, you will have to work all this out for yourself," he explained.

A key aspect of university life for him was learning to prioritise and leave plenty of time for assignments, especially at the beginning so that he could work out where to find things like books and other essentials.

He added that the most important thing was not to rush things, or expect too much from friends or oneself too soon.

"Surround yourself with good friends, who will help you with studies and campus life," he said.