

## Meet Kawan



iMatter

I moved to the YMCA main campus in October 2015 - I was 17 years old and 3 months. It was my very first moments in the UK. At the beginning it was very tough for me to get on and adapt to the new way of life. Back home I was the youngest child in my family. I got used to having so much attention, being loved and surrounded by my family members.

While at YMCA Derbyshire I was surrounded by people that I did not know and my disability of not being able to speak the language was an enormous obstacle getting

to know these people. It was so frustrating to be unable to express myself and interact with others which devastated me mentally. I had enough of being victimised and I was alone.

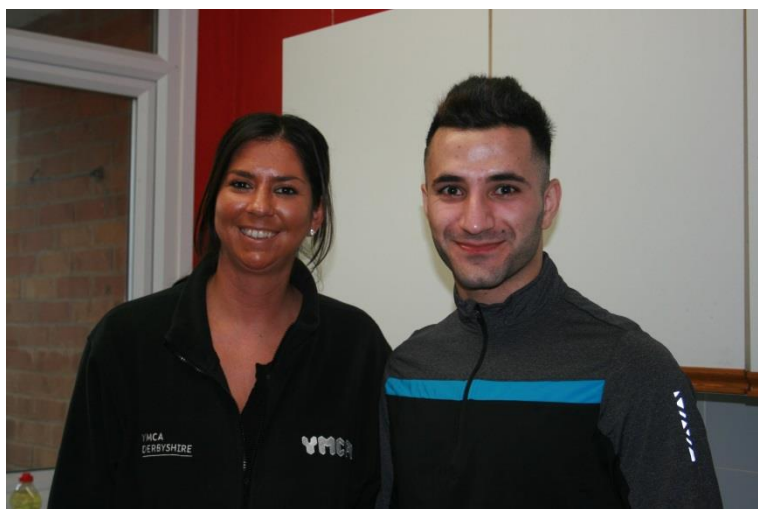
Despite that my patience and hard work helped me to manage to get over that disaster. I started studying at College and always did extra homework.



I have been helped by YMCA staff - they always had a positive influence on me and I appreciate all of their help from deep down in my heart. Their determination was the reason for me to become who I am now.

Currently I am studying at Derby College to keep improving my skills and I am doing the Toyota Asset programme with YMCA Derbyshire. It is an absolutely brilliant programme, highly recommend it for the young people at YMCA - it is so beneficial. The Health & Wellbeing Team put so much effort in to keep this programme easy for those who are doing it and they always encourage us to do and be better - I have so much respect for both.

I am living in one of YMCA's flats and am about to move to my own one very soon. I will be starting a full time job soon as well. The period I have lived at the YMCA has been a learning journey for me. Thanks for everything. I have endless love and respect for you. All the best and God Bless.



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Kawan benefits from our Y-Steps Project which specialises in enabling young people to move into their own home