

Studying the British way

When talking about lessons, we immediately picture students sitting on a classroom with teachers blabbering out information while the students hurry and scribble away. Or the long arduous three hour classes while students desperately try to stay awake. Well, let me tell you things can be different, and they are indeed different in the UK.

Classes in Lancaster are divided into lectures and seminars. Lectures are is the actual class where professors stand up and share content, these lectures are usually one or two hours at most. These are pretty similar to the regular classes in Taiwan, but just much shorter. Then comes the seminars, seminars can be compared to TA classes, where students are divided into smaller groups and either the professor or assistant will further expand on the topic. This is I think where some deviation come along between Taiwanese and British studies. During TA classes assistants are usually master's students, and they basically just does a little revision of the class previously taught by the students. Meanwhile the seminar classes are usually also taught by professors and instead of going over the topics taught in the lecture, they actually expand upon the discussed ideas and give new direction to topics. Students usually have to be very well prepared for these seminars, often spending many extra hours reading up on certain topics.

All in all I feel like western studying methods provides a more liberal approach. Students are given much more liberty to decide on how one should spend their time, making the experience a lot more reliant on self-discipline and intuitive interests rather than giving you solid guidelines of what to study and when to study. Both systems have their edge and their

flaws, while some might thrive under more freedom, others might prefer the comfort of very structured learning. So in the end, to each their own.