

生活報告

交換學校介紹及課程等學術方面資訊

Surrounded by gentle hills and grazing sheep, the University of Lancaster is located near the town of Lancaster around 40 minutes north of Manchester by train. The university itself consist of a 360 acre campus. It is furthermore divided is divided into nine colleges. Each college consists of its own housing blocks, a porter's center, computer center, a bar, and an events building. A central walkway called the spine connects each of these colleges and the university building together. Abundant squares, fields and ponds are scattered between the buildings giving the entire campus a very enjoyable and natural vibe. If you are into sports there are multiple courts for all kinds of outdoor sports. The campus is also retrofitted with a newly built 30 million pound sports facility which includes an indoor swimming pool, rock climbing, all-purpose rooms, ball courts, and a gym available for student use.

Established in 1964, the university has been consistently ranked within the top 10 in the United Kingdom. The establishment does indeed have the environment to nurture education. The education system at Lancaster University paints a very different contrast when compared to NCCU. Self-study and enrichment is far more strongly encouraged at Lancaster. Before our exchange we sent out a form indicating the courses we would like to take, but a week after we arrive we will have to repeat eh process once again but manually. Professors of each department will gather around the great hall. Each student will basically have to meet the department professors and ask for signatures to join the class they wish to attend, they will then ask for courses you have previously taken in order to assess your skill level compatibility with the course you have chosen. Adding and dropping classes after this date will require you to physically present yourself at certain department offices

All facilities are equipped with the latest technologies. Besides your own dormitories there are two main study facilities, these are the Learning Zone and the Library. Both of these locations are open 24/7 and provide you with multiple bookable study pods, perfect for all night revisions before the exams. These facilities also provide desktop computers, laptops, printers, LCD screens, and even shower facilities. All these can be accessed using you Lancaster Student Account and student card. Moreover once you log into the school's Wi-Fi you will instantaneously have access to the school's online library with hundreds of thousands of first hand sources. If you are looking for a more inspirational study area there are also natural study pods located around the forest surrounding the school campus.

On average a class will have a one hour lecture, and a one hour seminar during the week. The lectures resemble the classes we are familiar with, consisting of a large class with the professor giving lectures. On the other hand, seminars are a bit more intimate. The class is broken down to different individual small groups where the professor will discuss the contents of

the lecture, and provide interactive assignments. So for a class you will have a combined total of two hours of guided learning. It might seem very little time invested in learning but the truth is, much more time will be needed in order to fully understand the courses. The activities provided in the seminars generally requires research and understanding of certain topics. Meaning that a course that takes up two hours on your schedule will require the input of many more hours of self-study. Professors or their assistants will usually provide an office hour in which you can simply just make an appointment and drop by during the week. You will also be able to simply just communicate with them through email as well.

At first glance all these schedules, booking systems, and information might be baffling but fear not, because the school has actually managed to develop one of the best phone applications I've seen to help them navigate through their college lives. The application "iLancaster" will be one of your most helpful guide during your exchange period. Within this application, the student can find anything from their weekly schedules, assignment due dates, to your grades, or bus stops. If you are lost around the campus, the application also provides a map locator, simply input your destination and you will be guided to the correct location. Moreover the student can access any power point for any class, eliminating the need to bring a laptop or print the slides out. The application can also be used to book study rooms, and arrange appointments.

1. Introduction to Creative Writing

This course is a full year course with the purpose of developing young aspiring writers. Even though my major is business administration, I had tremendous interest in creating literary work, therefore I decided to go out of the box and take this course. This course has a one our lecture and a one hour seminar per week. The lectures usually involve a rotation of various authors from screen writers, novel writers, to poets. These classes usually focus on writing techniques and how to incorporate certain structures in a creative work. We review films and read literary passages as example. The second half of this course is the seminars. This is composed of a small groups of students guided by two professors. The students have to submit a piece of work every week and the group as a whole will discuss the strength and weaknesses of it. The main coursework revolves around the creation of an end of the year portfolio. This can be any creative work you desire to submit. The limitations are 4,000 words of prose, 15 pages of poetry, and 25 pages of script.

2. Franchising

Branching from the entrepreneurship department, this course delves into franchising systems, with a more specific focus on British franchising. Once again the class is composed by a lecture and a seminar. The lecture is mostly based on the theoretical aspects of the franchise system, while in the seminars students will be asked o research specific franchises, present, and discus them. One interesting aspect of this course is that it hosts its own franching competiton. The class is asked to form teams of five students and tackle one of four available case studies. These case studies are actual occurring scenarios but with the company names changed. The team will

come together and solve the problem presented, and the winning team will be awarded a prize of £500 sterling pounds (roughly 25,000 NTD). The students will have to pick teams on the second class making it a bit hard for exchange students who don't really have any acquaintances, so better chum up during the first week with your neighbors on the seats beside you.

3. E-Business Management

Students will be more familiar with this course, than the other ones. This course mainly relies on extensive textbook reading and term memorization. With the exams approximately being 40% short questions and 60% multiple choices, all you have to do is memorize the lectures and textbook.

4. Consumer Behaviour

This is one of the more engaging class, especially good for students that enjoy the marketing aspect of business. The professor is very good and knowledgeable, and eh seminar classes often spark interesting and controversial aspects regarding the morals of marketing. The exam is quite interesting. It is composed of two essays, these require you to at least cite 5 sources in the exam. Meaning that you must first study the topics research it and come to the exam prepared knowing exactly which researcher said what and on what date. This is a real challenge to those who are more used to memorization classes

生活及文化交流

The number one shocker for any Taiwanese student studying in England or Europe in general would be the weather. Around the January and March the temperature will most often fall between 0-15 degrees Celsius and 13-25 from April to June. Therefore it is suggested to bring clothing more suitable for winter. I would also highly recommend to buy a waterproof coat since it rains fairly often, yet I do not think an umbrella is needed since most of the time you will either encounter light drizzles or strong winds that will simply make holding the umbrella impossible. Another fascinating geological characteristic one might encounter is the drastic difference in daylight throughout the year. When you first arrive you will realize that the sun begins setting at around 4:00 pm making the days feel incredibly short. Yet, as we progress towards summer you will begin experiencing the opposite. The day drags out until 9:00 pm which many of you will begin feeling guilty knowing that you are already hammered with the sun still shining on you.

For anyone coming to England in general I'd suggest you to begin training your liver. English people socialize through drinks and most of them don't drink to enjoy, but drink to get wasted. The Lancaster student body even has their own night club with free bus services in town. People go out to night clubs and bars very often, and before they head for a night out they

usually have this pre-party called pre-drinks. This is mainly due to the fact that alcohol is a lot cheaper than in the venues. During my stay I would go out on average of two to three nights a week, and not just on beer, but on the heavy stuff. Believe me when I say that there is no better way of bonding with a British chap than a great night out and a tasty kebab the morning after.

Besides drinks, the other great thing that will definitely bring the lads together is sports, predominantly football and rugby. Whenever a big competition is near, you will begin to sense a sort of tension in the air. And on game day you will definitely feel it through the shouts of drunk people staring at a screen in the pub. Its very hard to get excited for people you don't know and things you aren't doing, but the British have definitely mastered the art. I was privileged enough to be around the Roses inter-collegial event during my stay. This massive sports event is one of the largest collegial competitions in Europe. During three days the students of University of Lancaster and the University of York will pick up the old rivalry sparked in the medieval "War of the Roses" and battle it out in sports competitions. This year the event was hosted in my school and I can assure you those three days were nothing less that sweat, cheers, and the sweet sound of celebrations during the night. The event ends with a bang and massive parties and at the end of the day you will find out whether the roses are "Red (Lancaster Victory)" or "Yellow (York Victory).

I feel that if you open yourselves on your exchange to Lancaster the opportunities of intercultural exchange are innumerable. The school has a very well set up infrastructure allowing incoming students to feel welcome and not let out. Social groups are formed, you are paired with a local student so there is little chance of feeling lost. Moreover there are literally hundreds of society available for you to join. There is also a large Chinese association accompanied with a smaller Taiwanese society as well. So what kind of cultural exchange experience you have will depend on the type of choices you make. During my stay I decided to socialize more with English people and my flat mates and within a month or two I no longer felt any difference from them, I literally became one of them. I also joined a rather peculiar club. I joined an underwater hockey sports team. Yes you read it right, I did not believe it was a sport either until I actually joined in and played a match.

In the end, I feel like each person's cultural exchange experience will be unique to their own as we bring our own independent predisposed views. All I can suggest that one should stay as open as possible, get out of your comfort zone and experience things at least once, even if it sometimes slightly defies your own ideals.

交換需注意之事項

Students entering the United Kingdom do not require any sort of extra visa preparation. All we have to do is provide the required documentation (the emails the school sent you before your arrival, and your NCCU documents such as your transcripts) and you will be granted a Class 4 Student Visa as you pass through immigration. Make sure you know the contact number

and address of the school in case of emergency. Other than that I do not think you will encounter much trouble entering. Furthermore unlike other European countries or universities, we are not required to purchase any form of extra insurance. The only suggestion I would give is to bring money, lots of money. The living expense is around 4-5 times that of Taiwan.

If you are thinking to travel around England by train, buy a rail card (gives you 1/3 discount) which will pay itself back many times as trip from Lancaster to London is around £80. For the monetary aspects students who wish to open a British bank account should do so with Santander and Nat West since they both have offices on the campus. I apologize on the fact that I do not have much detail on such subject because I did not open an account. If you wish to arrive and finance yourself with cash (which is what I did) I recommend you to bring at least £2,500-£5,000 depending on your spending habits. Moreover if you a planning to travel around Europe it is recommended to bring some Euros along with you as you will not be able to exchange money at a convenient rate without a bank account.

It should also be noted that Taiwan has a voltage of 110 V while the UK has a volt of 240 V meaning that most electronic appliances such as steamers rice cookers hair driers will immediately fry unless you buy an electric converter (costing an average of \$800 NTS or more). You can usually buy cheap replacements in the Chinese supermarkets so there is no need to bring such appliances. Yet modern computers and cellphones chargers will usually be fine as their chargers already have built in converters. But you will still require an outlet adaptor (averaging around \$30 NTS in Taiwan/ UK and continental Europe have different outlets as well).

Water in the United Kingdom is perfectly safe to consume, so do not be afraid to drink directly from the tap (this is excluding hot water). The foods provided by street vendors, food establishments, and markets, have very high sanitary standards so there should be no concerns regarding food poisoning or such things. You should be aware that foxgloves (poisonous when consumed) and stinging nettles (very irritating to the skin) are very common and widely present in the English country side therefore it is recommended to identify these two plants and take necessary precautions. In terms of bus and insects there are very few concerns besides the uncommon encounter of bees.