

Exchange
Report -
Fall 2015

Lancaster University, UK



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Year 4
Risk Management
and Business
Intelligence

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Part I: Monthly Activity Log

September 2015

The official arrival date of my college was on 27 September 2015. I booked the pick-up service from Lancaster University, it costed GBP 25. Once I arrived in Manchester Airport, they had a coach to take you from the Airport to Lancaster University. It is recommended since you will carry many things and it is not convenient for you to take the public transports.

The first week was the Freshers' Week. Both university and your college had organized a variety of activities including orientation talks and seminars.



October 2015

The term started on 5 October 2015. There is an add-drop period for exchange students in the first two week. The workload was still light. I travelled to Manchester, Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Highland), Belgium, Luxembourg, London and Netherlands.



November 2015



There will be Bonfire Night on every 5 November in UK.

There is a firework displays in Lancaster and you can enjoy this special event with your friends. Since it was already the middle of the term, it was the month for mid-term test and coursework. I got busier

but I finished revision and homework in advance so that I still had time for travelling. I went to Ireland, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland.

December 2015

It used to be a busy month since it came to the end of the term. However, I got a special experience in my exchange. Due to the adverse weather in UK, the Lancaster town was out of electricity and my university decided to end the term in Week 9. All



my final examination and tests are cancelled.

Therefore, one of my exam was changed to an assignment and I had a remote exam in February in HKUST. Also, I went to Iceland before the end of the term.

My accommodation tendency ended on 12 December 2015 and I moved to my friend's home in Warwick University.

After the end of the term, this started my 1.5 months journey in Europe. I went to the Christmas Market in Birmingham, Stratford Upon Avon, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

January 2016

I went to Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Greece and Italy in January. It was an unforgettable experience for me to visit different European countries in this 1.5-month. I finally went back to Manchester to take my returned flight to Hong Kong in the end of January.



Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

If you are holding a HKSAR Passport and stay not more than six months in UK, you do not need to apply for a visa in advance. Once you arrive in the UK, you need to show the official acceptance letter from Lancaster University to the Immigration Officer. To be registered as a study abroad student in Lancaster University, you should enter UK as a student short-term visitor instead of a general visitor. Moreover, if you will travel around Europe by flight, you need to bring your official acceptance letter when you re-enter UK.

Orientation Activities

Lancaster University provided pick-up service from Manchester Airport to the University, it costs GBP 25. It is recommended to book this service since you have many baggage with you.

Fresher week will be held one week before the start of the term. The university and the college will organize different orientation activities such as welcome talk and seminars. You can definitely meet and make new friends in these events.

International Services & Activities

The Base can deal with all students' based-services. For international students, you can also contact the Study Abroad Office by email anytime. They are helpful to give responses on every enquiry.

Accommodations

There are 8 UG Colleges on campus. Exchange student can be guaranteed a room on campus. There are different type of rooms for you to choose. The most common one is en-suite room, which includes a private bathroom in a single room. I lived in en-suite room Furness College, which located in the center of the main campus. It has a best location that you can go to everywhere with 5 to 10 minutes' walk. The quality of accommodation in Lancaster University is amazing and you must be satisfied with the accommodation.

Courses Registration

For exchange student, you are required to register courses at Great Hall in the Fresher Week instead of enrolling the courses online. There will be a counter for each departments. The professor will ask you some basic questions about the subject area to see if you are suitable for taking the courses. It will be useful if you bring with your transcript from HKUST.

Exchange students of Michaelmas term are allowed to take a maximum of 12 credits. Each module usually contains 4 credits. It means that you could only take 3 courses in total.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

I took 3 courses from Economics Department, Management Science Department and Mathematics and Statistics Department. Since the final exam will be held in the last term in UK, you have to inform the professors so that they will have special arrangement for you. For example, there will be final exams on Week 10 or other assessment to complete the courses.

Lancaster	HKUST	Assessments
ECON228 - Game Theory	MATH 4321 - Game Theory	This course included 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial a week. The tutorial takes attendance. If you miss it, you can attend alternative class to have the attendance. The professor and TA are nice and they will explain every concept in details with some numerical examples. The workload is not heavy. The assessment includes 33% mid-term exam in Week 8 and 67% final exam in Week 10.
MSCI381 - Business Forecasting	ISOM 4000OM - 4000-Level Course	This course included 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial a week. The tutorial takes attendance. If you miss it, you can attend alternative class to have the attendance. The assessment includes 25% MC Online Quiz in Week 4, 25% MC Online Quiz in Week 10 and 50% Group Project. The deadline of the group project will normally in January.

MATH318 - Differential Equations	MATH 2351 - Introduction to Differential Equations	In my exchange term, this course start from Week 6 to Week 10. Therefore, I had a tight schedule starting from Week 6. There will be weekly homework and online quiz to consolidate your knowledge. The assessment includes 30% coursework and 70% final exam.
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Sports & Recreation Facilities

The university's Sports Center is around 10 minute walk from the main campus. Most of the sports facilities are available. However, you have to pay for it. It is not recommended to pay an annual membership fee for it.

Cost/Expenses

Return ticket (Emirates)	HKD 9550
Insurance (BOC)	HKD 1400
Accommodation (76 Days)	GBP 1368
Accommodation Deposit (Refundable)	GBP 200
Pick-up Service	GBP 25
College Membership Fee	GBP 12
Living Expenses	GBP 40/week
Communication - Mobile	GBP 10/month
Travelling Expenses	HKD 50000
Total	Around HKD 89000

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are wide variety of student societies in Lancaster University. They will have promotion booth in the Freshers' Week so that they can recruit new members. You have to buy a Purple Card from LUSU in order to join the societies.

Health & Safety

There is a clinic on campus. However, for exchange student staying for not more than 6 months, there is no medical coverage. But you can claim you medical expenses after returning to Hong Kong. Lancaster is a safe town with mainly students and elderly.

Food

In the campus, there are different restaurants including fast-food (Subway), pizza, fish and chips and Chinese dishes. There are two supermarkets on campus also.

In the Lancaster town, you can buy most of the necessities. Supermarket such as Tesco and Sainsbury are also available in the town. Some may open 24/7. There is also an Asian Supermarket in the town. You can buy different cheap food there.

Transportation

The main transportation from campus to the town is bus 2/2A/3/4. The bus are very frequent and you can check the timetable using the mobile app.

If you want to travel different cities in UK, you can take Megabus or train. For the Megabus, it provides a relatively cheap fare. However, it takes longer time than train. For the train, it is better for you to buy a railcard, which is a discount card and you can earn 33% discount on every journey. Moreover, in UK, it is important for you to plan and purchase the train ticket in advance in order to enjoy a lower ticket's price.

Climate

The average temperature in September is around 15 degree. It got colder and colder in November. However, there is always a sudden rain in UK. Therefore, it is better to have a water-proof jacket with you.

Communication

I used the mobile service provider - Giffgaff in UK. You can order the SIM card online and they will send the SIM card to your accommodation. The cost is similar to that in Hong Kong. Moreover, WIFI "eduroam" can be accessed in whole campus. You can communication with your friends and family through Skype and Whatsapp Call.

Cautionary measures

UK is a safe place in general. But when you go travelling to other countries, you should always keep an eye on your own belongings. Moreover, it is better for you to bring a copy of all passport and documents.

Part III: Items to Bring and Contacts

Items to Bring

Passport	Official Acceptance Letter
Laptop	Camera
Travel Adapter	Medicine
Mobile Phone	Umbrella
Water-proof jackets	Warm Clothes
Latest Transcript from HKUST	Passport-sized Photo
ATM Card/Credit Card	Cash
Insurance Document	Copy of all important documents
Bed Sheet/Pillow/Blankets	Backpack
Chargers	Lock

Items NOT to Bring

Cooking Utensils	Shampoo/Conditioner
Asian Food	

Contacts

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If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk.