

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a mix of dark blue, orange, and yellow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of many people are visible on a pier or walkway, looking out at the water. The text is overlaid on this image.

SAY YES TO NEW ADVENTURES

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2018

LEUNG PAK HO PARCO

MARK & MGMT

JANUARY

I arrived Newcastle on 2nd January 2018 to settle all my accommodation and academic issues in advance. I checked into Glenamara House, which was near to the main campus and business school, before the school started. Including me, there were 8 exchange students from the US, Sweden, Germany, France and Malaysia, inside my flat. We bought the daily necessities together, especially those kitchen equipments. We tried to familiarize with others and chatted in the kitchen almost every day. Meanwhile, there was an orientation week held by the Northumbria Students' Union one week before the semester started. Most of the freshers' activities were located in Harbita, which was the campus pub next to the school library. We spent much time to chit chat with some other exchange students from other accommodations.

After meeting new friends from different backgrounds in the orientation week, we planned to visit other UK cities each weekend. Although I was the only UST student heading to Newcastle which really let me feel a bit nervous, it was a great opportunity to change your own self and step out of your comfort zone. Besides, during the first week, you could join any sports team you want with a specific fee. There were free trials and practices for each sport. Though I didn't join any sports team at last, I did try quidditch, which was similar to the sports in the Harry Potter series.



FEBRUARY

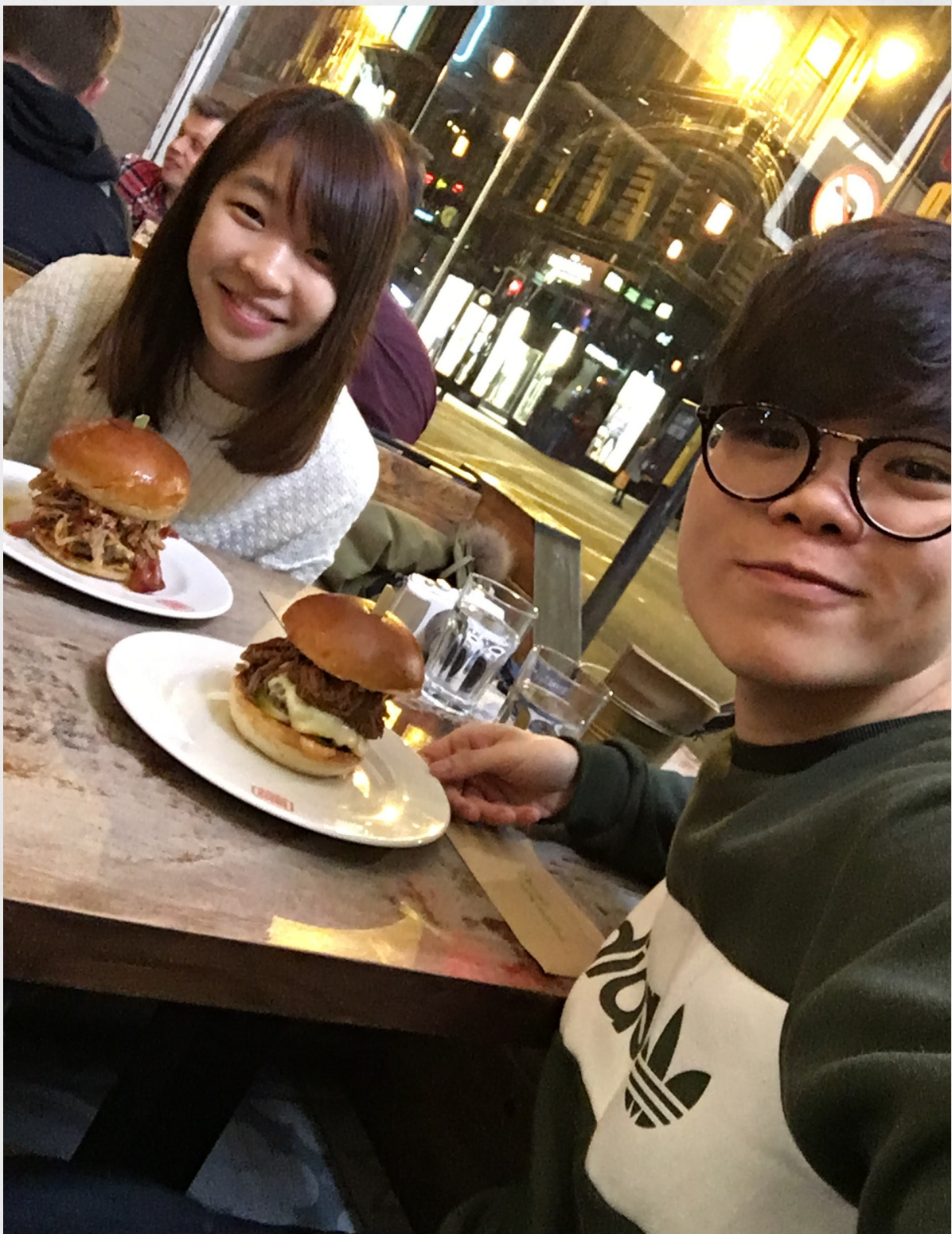
Yeah, besides studying, I tried grabbing some time to travel a variety of UK cities with my buddies. We visited Manchester, Berwick, London, Edinburgh and other small cities. I would put EDINBURGH as my top favourite city. If you would like to travel Scotland, you must visit Edinburgh. It only takes 1.5 hours train from Newcastle and I'm pretty sure you will enjoy the perfect vibes and brilliant views!

Furthermore, I watched my first live premier league game in Newcastle St. James Park. It was Newcastle VS Burnley. Although Newcastle didn't beat Burnley successfully, I wouldn't forget the excitement inside the stadium. There is a China Town in Newcastle. I went there frequently since most of my exchange friends would like to try Chinese food for long but didn't know what should order!!



MARCH & APRIL

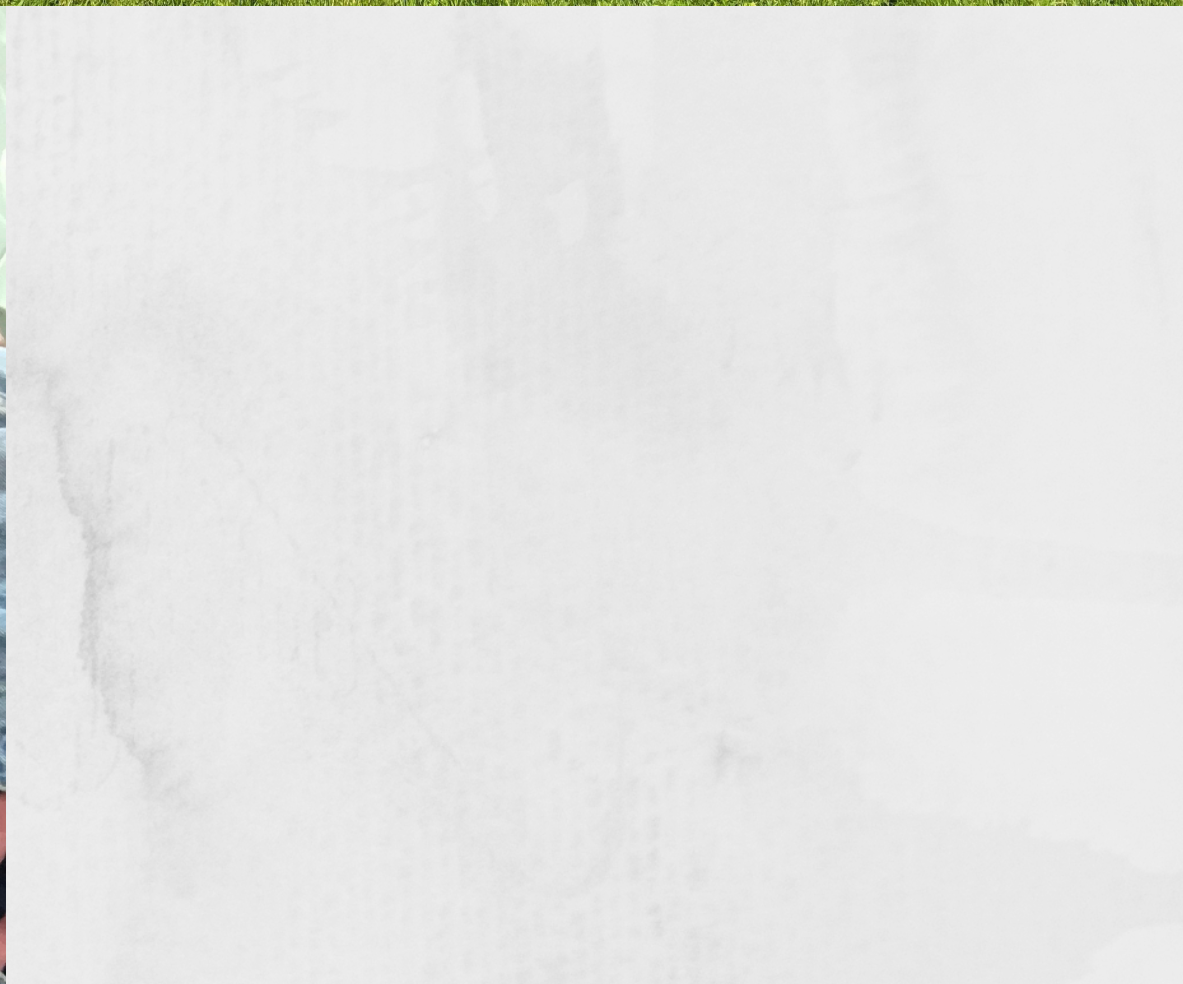
Well, every UK citizens, especially the students and teens, admit that Newcastle is famous for their vibrant night life. Students fond of enjoying different kinds of parties after school, especially the weekends and Tuesday nights. Moreover, Saint Patrick's Day was held in this month. We had make-ups and took part in the celebrations in the Sports Central of the campus. After that, the 3-weeks Easter holidays came! I travelled a few countries, including Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. I bought cheap flight and train tickets through mobile apps, which I would further introduce later on. Believe me, assignments were also needed! After the Easter holiday, I accomplished two essays and one case competition with my local group mates. It was quite challenging but memorable.



MAY

Unfortunately, this was my last month staying in Newcastle. I would say the time I spent here was one of my best moments in my life. Joyfulness of the city and the friendliness of the Newcastlers were the motivation and reasons why I would like to spend more time here. Therefore, I had a final gathering with the guys I met in Newcastle. No matter how far we are, our bondings will never break. Thanks for supporting me as always, dude!





1. VISA PROCEDURE

If you are holding Hong Kong passport, you may not apply a student visa, since every Hong Kong citizen can stay in the U.K. for six months without any visa. However, you should inform the immigration that you are staying in Newcastle for study, with proved documents which will be sent by Northumbria University before you leave Hong Kong,

2. ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

As what I have mentioned in my activity log, there was an orientation week before the semester started. You could attend the activities and met more new friends. Most of the activities were held in the campus pub called Harbita.

3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

If you like sports, you can join the sports team and the gym service by paying a specific fee. You can have a free trial on each sports team before consideration. Meanwhile, there will be some activities which are held by the Students' Union, such as the "Fast Friend Trip". You can join this kind of one-day trip visiting different U.K. cities with your buddies. However, normally it takes few hours for coach travelling. Hence, you may only spend a few hours if the city is a bit far from Newcastle. The most important things is, most of the activities should be organised by you and your exchange friends if you guys are eager to travel around other cities by yourselves.

4. ACCOMMODATIONS

You may choose your accommodation one or two months before you leave Hong Kong. I was living in Glenamara House this semester, which included a big kitchen and two toilets & bathrooms. It was near to the business school while it only took 5 minutes walk towards the learning area. It was really quiet and comfortable, but this really depended on what flatmates you are living with. If you don't like to cook, you can choose Claude Gibb, which provides catering services after paying an amount of fee. In my opinion, you can meet a lot of foreign friends in Claude Gibb than Glenamara House. Due to the large common area on the G/F, most of the residents in Claude Gibb loves chit-chatting and drinking together. However, the facilities inside are a bit old and the kitchen only contains a microwave and a small refrigerator. So you should compare well in the NU website before choosing the accommodations.

5. COURSES REGISTRATION

Just simply follow the email which will be sent by NU and you can successfully apply the modules. Each student can only choose 3 modules. I chose:

1. SM 0380 Doing Business Globally and Internationally (equals to MGMT4230 International Management)
2. HR0372: Culture and Organizations (equals to MARK3000LEVEL: 3000-level Course in Marketing)
3. MK0387: Digital and Data Driven Marketing (equals to MARK4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Marketing)

Make sure you can transfer the credits before you choose the modules. Besides, there may be an additional language course which is required to most of the exchange students. Don't be afraid of it since it doesn't count any grades.

6. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

For the modules I had registered, there were no any examinations. I got two essays in total and one group project (a case competition). There were lectures and seminars. Seminars should be attended every time.

7. SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

There is a gym room, swimming pool and other sports common ground in the Sports Central. There is also another sports area far from the campus, but it's also in charged by NU.

8. FINANCE AND BANKING

I spent around \$80000, including the accommodation fee, for the whole exchange experience while most of them came from travelling and food. If you have an exchange programme in U.K., you should apply for debit card in any of the banks. Since there is a Santander bank branch inside the campus, it is easy for you to apply your debit card. If you are going to travel outside the U.K., I would advice you bringing some Euro cash in advance.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Every student has to register the NHS (National Health Service) after you arrive U.K.. You can make an appointment to the clinic that you have selected if you are not feeling well. Alternatively, you can also get some medicines in the pharmacy like Boots, after asking for the pharmacist's advice.

Newcastle is a really safe city. Just beware of the drunk people at midnight.

10. FOOD

You can find any kind of food in Newcastle. There is a China Town next to the St. James Park if you miss Hong Kong food.

Nevertheless, I would recommend cooking by yourself if you have a kitchen in your flat since it can definitely save your money during these six months. Besides, if you would you like to try fish & chips, you should better visit Tynemouth (a small district inside Newcastle).

11. TRANSPORTATION

You can take Metro and buses within the city, as well as taxi and Uber. If you would like to travel around Newcastle, Metro will be a better choice. However, normally, you can walk from the campus to the city centre or even the main train station.

12. CLIMATE

Since I arrived Newcastle in January, it was winter and pretty cold. This year was an exceptional case, it snowed up to March. During May, I could still wear hoodie to prevent the windy weather.

Therefore, remember to bring enough winter clothes. You can also prepare some T-shirt and shorts, since you may feel a bit hot in your room after turning on the heater.

13. COMMUNICATION

You may find it a bit difficult to understand what the locals are talking about as their accents are quite strong. It's the "Geordie" accents. But I'm sure you will familiarize with it after a certain period of time.

ITEMS TO BRING

- PASSPORT

- STUDY PERMIT

- CREDIT CARDS AND CASH

- LAPTOP

- EUROPEAN ADAPTERS

- ENOUGH WINTER CLOTHES

- SOME SUMMER CLOTHES

USEFUL LINKS AND APPS

- **Northumbria University Webpage**

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/>

- **GoEuro**

(Check some cheap train tickets when you travel in European countries)

- **Skyscanner**

(Check air tickets in reasonable prices)

- **Trainline**

(Compare train tickets if you want to travel cities within U.K.,

ADVICE: APPLY FOR **RAILCARD!!!**)

Become friends with people
who aren't your age.

Hang out with people whose
first language isn't the same
as yours.

Get to know someone who
doesn't come from your
social class.

This is how you see the world.

This is how you grow.