

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

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# EXCHANGE REPORT 2018 FALL





# 1. ACTIVITY LOG

## September

This was my second time having a long flight to United Kingdom. I was a bit nervous but felt excited. What I and my family worried most is being stolen my personal belongings. When I first arrived in Newcastle, the first impression was the nice people and breathtaking views. I have asked Trinity Square, which was my accommodation, for pick-up service from train station. A girl picked me up and helped me to call a taxi which was free. I felt very grateful as the luggage are very heavy. The dorm in Trinity Square was super great as there was a private bathroom and there were 4 flat mates to share with you only.

The kitchen was very clean and the bed was very big. This was the best hall I have ever lived. In the induction week, I have joined some school activity to know some new friends. We went to the Jesmond Dene for seeing the waterfalls and I invited an English guy to take a photo with me as my friend requested. The waterfall was super small and I thought it was not much worth to see it. I have get to know three friends from Malaysia and they were very nice. Then, I went to Glasgow to visit my friend. I have a short trip to Glasgow before the semester begins.



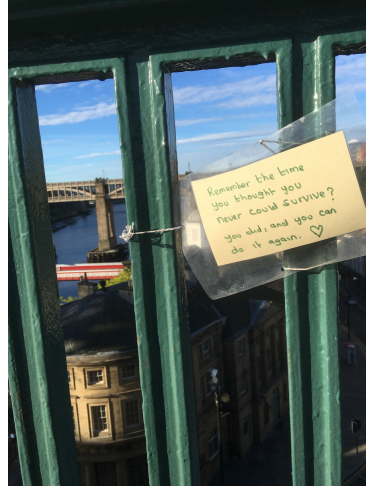


# 1. ACTIVITY LOG

## October

I have only taken two courses in this Semester and there is a day off on Friday, so I start planning the trip to Iceland. I and my friend went to Iceland for 4 days during weekend. Iceland is a must-go destination because of its great environment and views. Unfortunately, I cannot see the northern nights because of the weather. The bad thing was the food there was very expensive. Then, I went back to Newcastle for finishing some presentations. After that, I went to Dublin and Galway in Dublin with my friends. The food was very great and we went to the Cliff of Moher, which was the photo-taking point for Harry Potter.

It was quite worthy to go. In the end of October, I went to Denmark to visit my UST friend. We went to the Rosenberg and saw the first snow in Denmark. The interesting thing was that his dorm was located in a container, which surprised me. A warm reminder would be do not stay in Copenhagen for 6 days as it was quite boring to me.





# 1. ACTIVITY

## LOG

### November

In Newcastle, I usually cook the dinner and lunch for myself. I always take a 30 minute walk to school and back as the metro was quite expensive, but the view during the walk was very nice, though it was super windy. Another disadvantage would be the airport. The Newcastle Airport is super small and it costs you 15 minutes to go inside actually. It is quite inconvenient that you travel to other countries as the airport is small and there are not many choices. The air tickets are quite expensive too. I went to Sweden from Edinburgh in mid-November, the worst thing when I arrived was to wait for 2 hours to get on a bus to city center.

That's how I realized and felt the pace of life in North Europe. However, the meatball in Sweden was super super tasty. The sauce and potatoes were the best food ever. We lived in hostel which was on a boat, it was quite interesting. We have met a Tai Wan girl there and she introduced me some restaurants and the spots for seeing night view. In the late November, I went to Berlin and Munich by myself. It was my first time to travel alone. I was super afraid and concern about my personal belongings. At last, I was still safe. I felt very happy and satisfied to finish this task in one of my bucket list.





# 1. ACTIVITY LOG

## December

The teaching period ends on 21st December, but I will go travelling starting from 15th December, so I need to say goodbye and have last meals with my good buddies in Newcastle. I felt very sad as they were so nice, especially the Tai Wan girl I have met. Anyway, I believed that the geographic distance will not separate our friendship, we will meet again. Then, I have went travelling for entire month until I went back to Hong Kong. I went to Barcelona, Milan, Venice, London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Brussels, Paris in half month. I have my count down in Paris, the atmosphere was very great.

## January

Then I went to Switzerland, but the weather is not that good. Most of the countries I went to are not in a very good weather. That's what make me very sad. I have to bring my computer for travelling as I need to finish two 3000 words report before late January. Then, I went to Salzburg, Hallstatt, Vienna, Budapest and Rome. I was impressed by the heavy snow in Austria, but it was really beautiful. I like snowing very much. The night view in Budapest was super nice too. At last, I returned Hong Kong, which was the least desired thing. I wished I could stayed for a longer time.





## VISA PROCEDURES

Holding a Hong Kong Passport does not need a visa. Northumbria will ask you to make a short-term study Visa, but it actually doesn't need. As you are not staying longer than 6 months, you would not need to make a Visa or BRP. Bear in mind to keep the confirmation email to show to the immigration.

## ORIENTATION

There will be a fresher week. You can join the activities or party during the week, like hiking, tea party or chitchat. The activities I joined in the first week are held by School Unions. I have gone to the tea party for free food and getting some coupons too.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are sports team to join or Gym service at school, but it requires you to hand in a 180GBP for one semester, so I didn't join as it is quite expensive. Also, there are also some sport activities held by different dorms. You could participate in or enjoy the atmosphere with your flat mates. There are also some one day trip to other cities in the UK like Edinburgh, Manchester or Leeds. You can receive email from them.







## ACCOMMODATION

I live in Trinity Square, which is quite far away from school. It requires me to walk for 25-30 minutes from dorm to school. As the transportation fee is quite expensive. I used to walk to school. The location is not quite convenient, I will take metro to my dorm at night. However, there are the largest Tesco, cinema, Poundland, Boots, Burger King downstairs, which was very convenient. You need not to go out the city center to buy things or food. Also, the room is very cosy and large. There is a double bed and the kitchen is very clean and big. I super recommend this dorm as there is also Gym room downstairs.

## COURSE REGISTRATION

Northumbria registers courses as a cluster. Once you enroll to one of the module, you are forced to study other two courses in a cluster set. I only studied two courses throughout the semester because I found that I cannot transfer credits for one of the courses. Therefore, make sure your choices are able to be transferred. There is also a language course which is compulsory for exchange students. However, even you didn't pass, it won't be shown on your transcript.



## TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Normally, there are two lectures and one seminar for one course per week. Seminar is compulsory and attendance is monitored. There are no examinations for Marketing courses, but two 3000 words final reports. Therefore, I can go travelling during January which was supposed to be the exam period.

## SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

There is a big sport hall and Gym room in Northumbria but I didn't try the Gym room at school as it needs to pay for entrance. I have tried the Gym in Trinity Square, it is not that big but there are only few people.

## FINANCE AND BANKING

I have opened a bank account in HSBC. You need to request for a bank letter from the school library ask 4 help counter, then you can go to HSBC to open an account. You need to book for reservation before head. The process is easy and quick, so that you can transfer money from HSBC Hong Kong to HSBC UK.

I also recommend that you can register a debit card called Transferwise. It can transfer pounds to other currency in an app, so that you do not need to go a physical counter to transfer the currency. What you need to bring during travelling is just this contactless card, so that you do not need to carry different types of currency every time. It is super convenient and the exchange rate is better than the physical stores.







## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Students need to register the NHS(National Health Service) after you arrived UK. It is free of charge and you can make an appointment when you feel sick. Or else, you could buy some medicines in Boots.

Newcastle is very safe like Hong Kong because it is a students' city, but don't go back alone at late mid-night if you are a girl.

## FOOD

There is a China Town in Newcastle, the food are generally good. There are also many Italian restaurants in Eldon Square. You can enjoy student discount in certain restaurants and those are quite tasty. Or else, you can cook by yourselves. I usually buy groceries and food in Tesco or Iceland, it is much cheaper than outside.

## TRANSPORTATION

There is metro station in Newcastle, you can register a pop card so that you can use it as Octopus card. You can also take bus to travel around, there is also a central bus station in Trinity Square.



## CLIMATE

Newcastle is super windy, it could compare with the Typhoon in Hong Kong. It likes I am experiencing Typhoon Signal No.8 when I walk to school every day. It is very cold at night and sometimes it snows in January. I suggest you to bring more coats if you are going in Fall semester. You can buy coats in Primark or other stores, the clothes in UK are not expensive.



## COMMUNICATION

All people in Newcastle speak English. It is very easy to understand, but some accents of the professors may not easy to understand as their first language might not be English. Free feel to talk with others in the UK to improve your English, the people are very nice when compared with Hong Kong people.

## ITEMS TO BRING

- Items to bring
- Passport
- Clothes
- Cash (Pounds & Euros)
- European Adaptor
- Laptop/iPads
- Credit card





## USEFUL LINKS AND APP

Enjoy your Exchange!



Northumbria  
Website



Go Euro (Search  
for train schedule  
in Europe)



Flixbus (Buy Bus  
tickets in EU  
Countries)



Trainline (Search  
for train schedule  
in UK)



Virgin Train (Book  
trains ticket in UK  
without paying  
admin fee)



Skyscanner  
(Search for cheap  
air tickets)



Students Beans  
(Student discount)



Unidays (Student  
discount)



Transferwise  
(Transfer to other  
currency within  
seconds in App)



Amazon (Enjoy  
Prime student  
discount for 1-day  
delivery)

THE END!