



2018-2019 Fall

Exchange Report

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Monthly Activity Log

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Monthly Activity Log

September
- October

I started my journey from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom on 26/9, which took around 16 hours of flight until arrival in Manchester Airport. But 29/9 was the actual commence of my exchange. I took the **coach (£25) by the university** from Manchester Airport and arrived my college, Furness, in an hour and a half. I received the welcome pack and followed the student helpers to my flat, where I met my flatmates. At that night, we had a party in an open space of the college and got to know many freshers. The last day of September was rather routine. I went to a registration session and got my student card with which I could use the printer on campus and borrow books from the library. There were some other talks regarding the school such as fire safety and personal wellness. I also went to a bar party organised by the college.

October started with course registration. Although I had pre-registered modules (courses) long before, I still had to fill in a form and talk to the department's staff in a hall to get approval. Tutorials, workshops etc. were also registered through online platform

afterwards.

I spent two more nights out in bars of the town. One was operated by the student union and it was a huge space where freshers from three colleges danced together and I got to know more people in the event (though it was not a good venue for chatting). Then I started to explore other parts of the school, leaving the nights for rest.

There were various activities in the school, which was more like a week of funfair. I have joined demonstrations by the Folk society, which taught some traditional dancing in an evening, and the Living History Society, which showcased combats with swords and catapults. Those were very fresh activities and with which I was fascinated.

During the orientation week, I purchased a bus pass for the week, so I made use of it to go to the town, familiarising myself with the environment and travel to nearby towns. I remembered roughly how can I buy necessities in the town and what can I do there, which were very handy for my stay in the later days.

Michaelmas term commenced in the second week, during which multiple fire drills happened randomly, in lecture rooms, and also the dorms. Fire alarms in

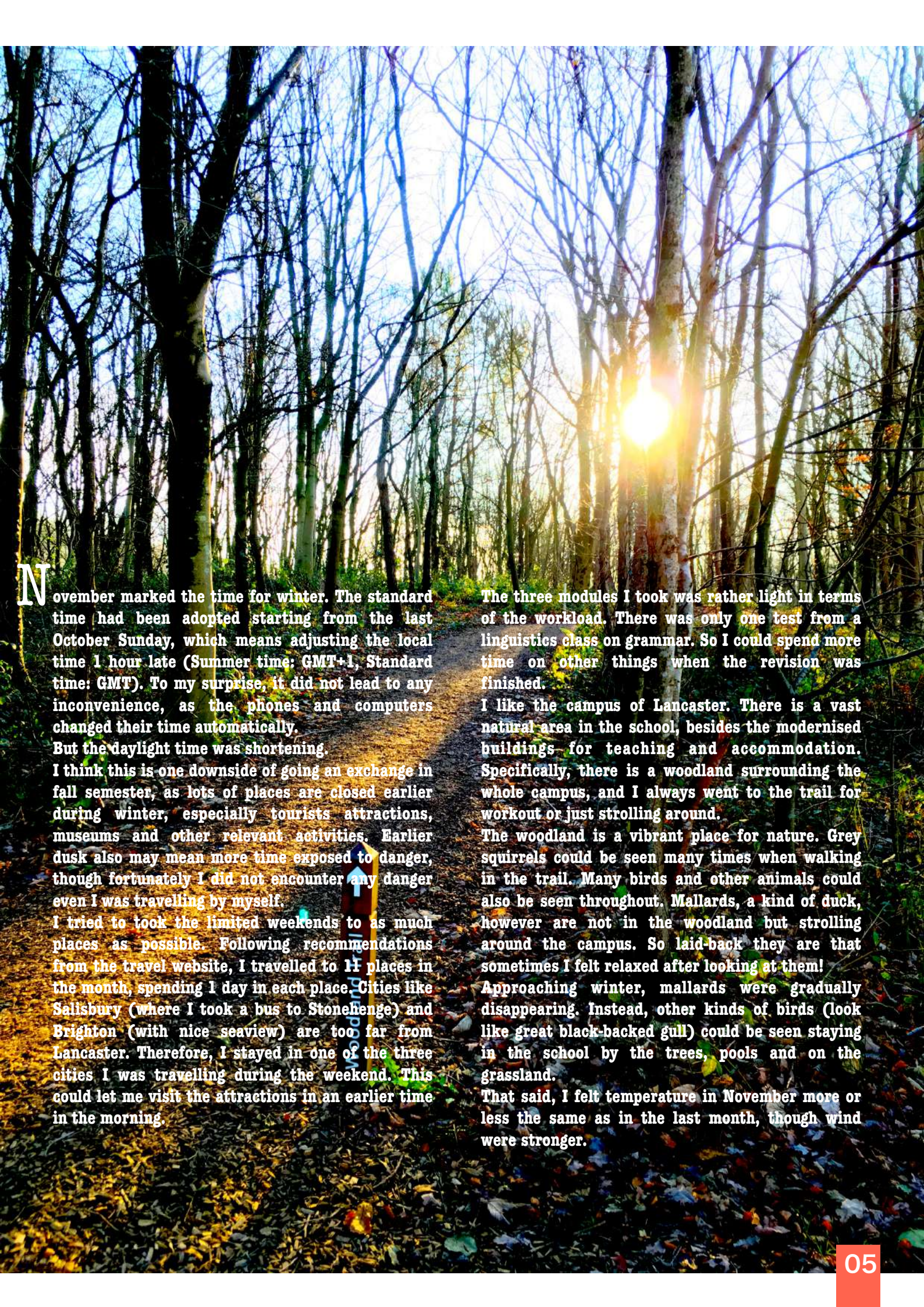
my dorm would be checked every Monday afterwards, but luckily I was always on a trip then. I had a pretty nice schedule with a day-off on Monday, so I could travel to other cities in the UK during the 3 days from Saturday. Since the train tickets are normally cheaper in off-peak time, and even cheaper in the earliest morning and latest night, I got up before dawn and came back to the school at almost midnight. Often the trains were so early (6am) that there was not yet a bus and I had to take a taxi, but overall the transportation prices were cheaper than taking a 9 am train.

Besides Edinburgh, Glasgow and the Lake District, lecture theatres were the place I spent most of the time in the UK. Lessons there are almost the same as in HK which I found it easy to follow, but there are some differences. One important thing is the attendance system the university implemented. It is required that students have to click a button in the iLancaster app (like USThing) to show their present. More information could be found after the registration in the school.

October was ended with quite a peace and pleasant atmosphere as there were almost no workload and modules I took were merely 3.

1. Alexandra Square, Lancaster University: taken after class from 6-7pm
2. Darwen Tower, Blackburn: a short-walk after morning class
3. Loch Ness Monster: a day trip from Edinburgh
4. Combat: demonstration by Living History Society
5. Morecambe Bay: a trip to Morecambe during the orientation week





November marked the time for winter. The standard time had been adopted starting from the last October Sunday, which means adjusting the local time 1 hour late (Summer time: GMT+1, Standard time: GMT). To my surprise, it did not lead to any inconvenience, as the phones and computers changed their time automatically.

But the daylight time was shortening.

I think this is one downside of going an exchange in fall semester, as lots of places are closed earlier during winter, especially tourists attractions, museums and other relevant activities. Earlier dusk also may mean more time exposed to danger, though fortunately I did not encounter any danger even I was travelling by myself.

I tried to took the limited weekends to as much places as possible. Following recommendations from the travel website, I travelled to 11 places in the month, spending 1 day in each place. Cities like Salisbury (where I took a bus to Stonehenge) and Brighton (with nice seaview) are too far from Lancaster. Therefore, I stayed in one of the three cities I was travelling during the weekend. This could let me visit the attractions in an earlier time in the morning.

The three modules I took was rather light in terms of the workload. There was only one test from a linguistics class on grammar. So I could spend more time on other things when the revision was finished.

I like the campus of Lancaster. There is a vast natural area in the school, besides the modernised buildings for teaching and accommodation. Specifically, there is a woodland surrounding the whole campus, and I always went to the trail for workout or just strolling around.

The woodland is a vibrant place for nature. Grey squirrels could be seen many times when walking in the trail. Many birds and other animals could also be seen throughout. Mallards, a kind of duck, however are not in the woodland but strolling around the campus. So laid-back they are that sometimes I felt relaxed after looking at them!

Approaching winter, mallards were gradually disappearing. Instead, other kinds of birds (look like great black-backed gull) could be seen staying in the school by the trees, pools and on the grassland.

That said, I felt temperature in November more or less the same as in the last month, though wind were stronger.

December flew quickly with a fortnight of tests and assignments, and the other of trip to Europe.

As the term was approaching to the end, assignments and tests were inevitable. I had a test, an exam and 2 assignments. Though they were not very tough, I decided not to travel any more. The exam was only designed for visiting students (actually two including myself) with adjustments such that we would not find many questions from the recently taught topics. Since the test and exam are of the same accounting subject, revision was not as hard. I had to hand in an essay for the linguistics course but it was rather easy as long as research had been done in throughout the semester (essay topics were available since the start of the term). The remaining assignment was only questions set for facts and theories, which required some effort. Actually there were another essay and assignment (in replace of an exam), which were due in January, so I left them until coming back in HK.

Staying on campus during weekend was another kind of experience. So tranquil the environment was that I felt so relaxed to stroll around each building, every corner and all walkways, looking at the empty lecture rooms, listening to the quacks and smelling the fresh grass. These proved useful when it comes to energising lethargic brain and body during the study.

One bad thing about weekend is the closure of multiple restaurants, especially one cafe that offers delicious salad, fries and drinks for only £4.5. But there was another option. On Saturday, a pizzeria offers a lunch buffet which includes a few types of pizzas, fries and salad for only £6. I loved to have that buffet after studying for the whole morning.

All things must come to an end. On 14/12, the last school day, I left the school after the last linguistics lesson. I packed all the useful stuff into my luggages, cleared out my room, gave away the unwanted stuff to the charity shop on campus, including the beddings which I bought in the UK. Before the exchange, I thought I would need to bring along with me a lot of stuff from HK in case I could not get used to the environment. They turned out to be unnecessary worry, thrown away or taken back to HK, still intact, at last.

This is the day when most students left the school, so the traffic from the university to the train station was congested. Even taxi were busy. The four local operators had all their taxi sent to cater the need and I was lucky to get one so I could catch the train (1st class with huge discount!). Taxi took around £10 and no charges for the luggages.

At last, I took the train to London, and started my journey to Europe.....

(The sheep was taken on the last day, when I was running. Maybe they were saying goodbye to me.)



General Exchange Information

IMPORTANT:

All the information below comes from my experience during the 2018-2019 Fall (Michaelmas) term exchange, which may be different from other times.

Lancaster University will email students months before the term informing the important procedures to take. There is also a website for preparation: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/welcome/campus-learners/>

1. Visa Procedure

Visa is not a concern when it comes to a stay less than 6 months, which applies to the case of a fall semester exchange. There is nothing to do until arrival in the UK's port of entry, when the immigration officer will ask question about the purpose of this trip. It is important to tell the officer about the exchange and stay less than 6 months, and better with the immigration letter from Lancaster University.

2. Orientation Activities

Welcome Week

The Welcome Week starts with the arrival days, depending on which colleges. There is coach service from Manchester Airport to the college straight (£25), with the colleges' student representatives (helpers) welcoming and taking the students to the college.

Keys to the dormitory will be given along with the welcome pack, which contains a booklet outlining the upcoming activities for visiting students only, documents to sign, module registration forms, and some souvenirs by the college.

Orientation activities are organised by the school, college, and student societies. All the events could be searched from the website or in iLancaster App.

School-organised activities

• Registration

The next day after arrival, there will be a registration session for school ID card making, and recording some basic information. Passport is a must to bring along with, and there is no need for any proof of funding or proof of English language ability as listed in the website.

• Orientation Day

This is only for visiting students, who will attend a series of talks about the school in general, the school's aid to students' study, teaching system in Lancaster, and most importantly how to enrol for modules.

• Module Enrolment, module=course

Taking the enrolment forms distributed by the school, with some proof of previous education, such as school transcript, you can seek approval from the department you want to take modules from, after talking to their staff.

This session is only to confirm your enrolment in the course. So after this session, you still need to register the modules' lectures, tutorials, workshops, etc. online in order to register your preferred time slot.

• Talks

There are various talks over the week, on topics such as fire safety, students' wellness, and library services.

College-organised activities

Each college has their own schedule and types of activities. Besides college's own welcome session and introduction to the staff and junior college representatives (JCR), activities may include campus tours, parties in bars (outside and inside campus), casino nights, movie nights, sports nights, quiz nights and even trip to the Lake District. Student representatives are assigned to each flat of the dormitories and they will take care of you during the term, and take you to the activities during the week.

Society-organised activities

Welcome week is also promotion period for student societies. There will be demonstrations by them. For example, you can try rock climbing. There will be a day when you can meet all of the societies from their booths in a designated venue, where you could also decide whether to join them or not.

3. International Services and Activities

Global Experience Team could be the one you may need help from during the term, regarding cases specifically for visiting students like you. The team may send you emails regarding activities for visiting students from time to time.

There is also a Study Abroad Society where you can join activities and meet other visiting students. The society organised some activities such as trips to Manchester Christmas Market (charging some fee).

4. Accommodation

The award winning Lancaster Hall worths your stay.
There are various types of accommodation:

Name	Description
Standard with washbasin	Share washroom and kitchen with flatmates
Superior en suite	Has own washroom but share kitchen with flatmates Share the room with 1 person / single Most common type in the school
En suite	Older version of superior en suite, cheaper
Townhouse	Share a house with 11 other residents, with only one kitchen, washroom and living room
Self-contained Studio	Has own kitchen, washroom Share with 1 person/ single

Prices range from around £90 per week to £190 per week. Some accommodation types may be available only for those with long term stay in Lancaster University.

Information will be sent by the school from June.

5. Courses Registration

After receiving the offer to Lancaster University from HKUST, the host university will send an email with welcome, attached with a link to register. During the process, you are required to provide courses you wish to take. A tentative timetable will be shown in the student portal (similar to HKUST portal), but to be confirmed during the orientation week.

(During the period, it is advised to apply for assessment of new course equivalence if applicable.)

After receiving the welcome pack on the arrival day, you should find the module enrolment form and change of module enrolment form. The latter one would be useful only when you need to drop a module in order to take another one. The module enrolment form is important, as it is the form to be filled with modules you want to take, and to be signed by the corresponding department staff to approve your registrations of the modules.

On the module enrolment day, it is advised to bring along with you some proof of related learning, such as school transcript. The staff may ask you the reasons for taking the module, or any related experience with it. This may only apply to modules with pre-requisite in their curriculum, as I need not provide any information for an introduction module to linguistics and I just received a signature for it.

The enrolment day is also a chance to ask about assessment. Some arrangements may be made only for visiting students, such as weighting of each assessment or change of assessment method (from an exam to an assignment only).

After the approval, you may go to the student portal and take the best time slots of each module's lectures, workshops, tutorials, etc. The Welcome Week Guide as well as the talk on the orientation day will provide sufficient guidance to the process.

6. Teaching and Assessment Methods

Teaching is similar to HKUST, except a few.

- Attendance system

Every lessons, whether workshops, lectures, tutorials, require students to take the attendance, through their iLancaster App. With only a few taps and you can be 'present' in the class. There will be booths teaching how to use the system during Welcome Week.

- Duration of a lesson

Most of my classes lasted 50 minutes only.

- Types of lessons

A module could be divided into different lessons. In my case, I had a course which contains lectures, tutorials and workshops. They are for different purposes and each of them may have different notes, different instructors, different class size and engagement methods. They are all supposed to be attended.

Study in Lancaster University is structured to consider a year as a unit, and a semester is only part of it. For example, you may see modules with 20 weeks of study, from the Michaelmas term (October) to Summer term (June). Another example, which is more important, is that examination period happens once a year. The module taken in early October will be assessed the next year, in June. Therefore, visiting students in Michaelmas term may expect to have special arrangements on assessment, such as an early exam before leaving the school in December.

Courses I have taken

Module title	HKUST's corresponding course	Description
AC.F 211 – Accounting Information Systems & Auditing	Free credits	Partly about data management, covering such as ERP system, characteristics of big data. Another part is about accounting information system, which contains the detail steps in each of the four business cycle.
AC.F 301 – Financial Accounting I	ACCT4010 Advanced Financial Accounting (3 Cr)	Mainly about the preparation for the four financial statements when it comes to consolidation. It covers and relates to some IFRS.
LING 103 –Linguistics	HUMA1000HMCC 1000-level Course in Humanities (4 Cr)	Introduction course. It covers topics like origin and death of language, how human acquire first and second language, different language systems. It also covers English grammar analysis with Linguistics perspective, such as the function of each phrase in a sentence.

7. Sports and Recreation Facilities

Sports Centre

On campus, there is a sports centre, which provides various types of activities like swimming, gym, squash and sauna. Payment could be by two options: membership (each term or every year) or pay as you play (even for shower).

Woodland Trail

It surrounds the whole campus. Be careful when walking the trail after rains.

Trim Trail

Basically a few hundreds meters of trail for your fitness. It is a set of outdoor facilities where you can do sit-ups, improve your muscular strength, endurance and agility.

8. Finance and Banking

My expenses

Accommodation	~£1,500
Dining (on campus and during weekend travel)	~£1,500
Travel (Bus and trains)	~£1,200
Miscellaneous (Including necessities)	~£1,000
Flight tickets	~ HKD \$10,000
Total	~HKD \$62,000

Bank Account

Barclays offers student account option.

During the welcome week, by applying for the account online, you can take the reference number and go to a room on campus for further registration. The location would be directed from the bank. After filling the information, giving the passport for the staff to copy and signing the agreement, you can expect to receive a letter from the bank a week later, with the debit card sent in another letter. Then you can activate the card and use it.

9. Social Clubs and Networking Activities

There are more than 130 societies in the school, from the most common sports clubs, religious organisations, bands, volunteering groups, to airsoft, Amnesty International, and clubs for lego-lovers. There is also the Lancaster University Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Service Society for Hong Kong people, and societies which target at students who want to connect with others for career or socialising.

More information could be found from the website:

<https://lancastersu.co.uk/about-societies>

10. Health and Safety

There are a site for medical practice, a dental clinic and a pharmacy. Appointments should better be booked in advance (via phone, in person, or by app), or in case of urgency, calling the reception of Lancaster Medical Practice's branch on campus. Pharmacy provides common medicines, basic beauty products and skin and hair care products.

Further Information:

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/about-us/theuniversity/our-campus/health-services/>

Safety is maintained on campus by security guards. In emergent situation, porters from each college could also be contacted for help.

As far as I am concerned, safety in the UK generally is satisfactory. I had been travelling to a dozen of cities, where I walked in the street alone after 8pm and I did not encounter any problems, except the possibility of getting lost. This is because there are only street lamps lightning the street and no other sources of lights.

Note: The Security Bureau is now enforcing the yellow outbound travel alert for the UK (<https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/ota/note-UnitedKingdom.htm>)

11. Food

There are over 10 places for eating, but some may not open at nights or weekends, providing meals such as pizzas, burgers, halal food, Asian food and salad. There is a restaurant which looks like a normal cha chaan teng as you can drink iced lemon tea and pork chop with rice.

The school offers meal plans, which include breakfast + lunch/ dinner only in some restaurants. You can choose a 10 weeks or a term plan, and whether the meal plan includes weekends or not.

There are little variety of dishes in Lancaster, with only couple of Japanese and Chinese restaurants. Other restaurants provide typical local food.

12. Transportation

The most common means of transportation are buses and trains. Transportation fee in the UK is more costly than in HK, even with discounts.

If you plan to travel in the country, it is recommended to apply for a 16-25 railcard. It charges £30 one off for a year in exchange for 33% discount on train tickets.

The bus company also offers student ticket for each term or year.

13. Climate

With higher latitude, the UK is generally colder than HK. In September the temperature could be as low as 15 °C. However when I was in the UK, I felt the coldness did not vary so much from September to December. It was much colder when it comes to rains and winds, which could be very heavy and strong even in December. So strong were the wind that using an umbrella is in vain, and you can see many people generally do not take an umbrella with themselves. Rather, they wear water-proof jackets with hats. The combination proved to be more convenient and useful from my experience.

During my exchange in Lancaster University, I have not seen any snow, but only some hail (which seems like the opposite of other exchange students in the previous years).

14. Communication

Wifi is always available on campus, using eduroam which is accessible with UST account. For network during travel in the UK or Europe, you could buy 3UK's sim card, which is available in HK. You can choose between amount of data each month, and change the choices when you top-up the card every month. With the network service, you can access to the Internet in more than 70 places including HK. The plan also provides with 3000 minutes of phone calls in UK only, and 3000 texts.

Items to Bring

Essentials

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> Flight ticket | <input type="checkbox"/> Laptop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HK ID | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign currency | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptance Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit cards
(Master/ Visa better) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Letter | | |

Handy Stuff

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down | <input type="checkbox"/> Water-proof jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat tech clothes |

Can be bought in UK (But you may want to take from HK)

- Beddings (can be ordered via online store cooperating with the school)
- Cooking utensils, rice cooker
- Hair dryer

Can be bought in UK cheaply (If you don't mind lower quality/ flaws)

- Any kind of clothes and shoes in Primark
- Gloves (£1)
- Scarf (~£5)

Useful Links and Contacts

Name	Phone No.	Address	Links
UK Emergency Number	999	/	
Chinese Embassy	+44-20-72994049	49-51 Portland Place Marylebone W1B 1QL London United Kingdom	www.chinese-embassy.org.uk

Name	Links
Lancaster University General Information for Exchange Students	https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/international-students/visiting-students/
Accommodation	https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/facilities/accommodation/
Eat	https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/eat/
Student Services	https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/
Module lists (with details) & simplified version	http://www.lusi.lancaster.ac.uk/CoursesHandbook/ModuleDetails/OnlineModules?yearId=000119&categoryCodeLid=000622&sortOrder=1&urlSearch=CompleteByDepartment https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/international-students/visiting-students/study-abroad-modules/



2018-2019 Fall Exchange
Lancaster University
Accounting and Information System

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