

Report (Erfahrungsbericht)

Preparation

When you successfully get nominated for a place at the Lancaster University you will receive an E-mail from them with a link to the online application which you have to complete and submit. Be aware that there is a deadline. For the application Lancaster wants you to submit a Letter of Motivation. I would recommend getting it proofread by somebody before uploading it.

Formalities

Depending on your duration at the university the Erasmus program does offer you financial support. Another option would be to apply for Auslands Bafoeg. If you do consider applying for Auslands Bafoeg be sure to do it very early on as it takes quite a long time for the application to get through. And in case you do not have a European passport you might have to apply for a Visa. In case you do need to apply for Visa you will probably have to go to Berlin to make your application.

General Information

During the Welcome Week there will be some obligatory exchange student event you will have to attend. The very first one is the welcome talk where you will be informed what will happen for the rest of the welcome week and for the rest of your Erasmus duration. During the talk they will introduce themselves and will inform you who the contact in which situation as well as where to go when you need help or assistance. The whole team is quite friendly and very helpful so do not be shy or hesitate to approach them if problems arise during your time at Lancaster. The second obligatory event is the course registration event (more information below). And depending in which college you are you can attend many events during the welcome week and get to know other students. Events such as movie nights and woodland trail walk and many more events will take place. Just have a look at their official Facebook or Twitter site. You can even plan your Welcome Week using the ILancaster app. There are two other major events which take place during the Welcome Week, which are attended by all freshers (first year students). One of them is an event where you get to explore what kind of societies there are and sign up when you are interested. You could sign up for multiple societies if you would like. The second event is where organisations or companies will introduce themselves to you. If you would like to attend this event be sure to be there early on otherwise you will not get in. One more thing that you will have to do during the

welcome week is getting you student ID card. Depending on to which college you belong to there will be a time slot allotted to you and you will know how to go there and get your ID card.

Important information regarding course selection

Before arriving at the University of Lancaster you will have to fill out the online application, where you choose which courses you would like to attend during your duration. They ask you to choose three modules and three back up modules in case your first three choices are not available to you when you arrive at Lancaster or any other problems arise. Upon arriving in Lancaster during the Welcome Week there will be a course registration day. During the day you will have to bring the yellow registration form, which will be in the red envelope you will have received from the porter on the day you arrived, to the registration place and get the signature of the departments your course choices belong to. There is a period of drop and add of two weeks where you can change your previously selected courses, however if you want to drop a course you need to get the signature from the department as well as when you want to add a course. And then you have to submit the form to the exchange student office. If the modules you ultimately attend and the modules you have on your learning agreement are not the same, you will have to fill out the learning agreement during the mobility sheet. Be aware there is a 4-week deadline to submit the learning agreement during the mobility.

Accommodation

When it comes to finding yourself some place to stay you have quite a few possibilities. The first obvious choice is finding some place to stay through the Lancaster University itself. At some point after you have applied to Lancaster and got accepted you will receive an E-mail from the University informing you about when and how you can apply for accommodation on campus. Following the instructions, you should not discover any major issues. Although going through the process of applying might not be complicated getting an offer is seldom. Usually Lancaster University prioritises first year students who will stay for the whole academic year. However, I would still recommend applying for an accommodation on campus through the official website of the University. In case they cannot offer you anything on campus they will make an effort to help you find a place and will forward you to alternative accommodation options. Another option would be to apply for accommodation outside of the campus on Cable Street or University of Cumbria. Some things to consider while searching for an accommodation is whether or not you want an en-suite room with your own shower, or you would be fine with sharing a bathroom with other people. I shared with 8 students and it was not as bad as I thought it would be (but I might have been just lucky.) And in case you find an accommodation outside of campus you need to consider the time and money (bus

tickets) you spend for the journey to the Uni and back to your accommodation. Ultimately it is a question of budget. Another option would be to search for guest families.

Other

The closest airport to Lancaster is The Manchester Airport. If you do choose to fly to Manchester, there is a shuttle service from the Airport to the Lancaster University campus. You have to purchase a ticket online (beforehand). In terms of transport within the city Lancaster's public transport relies on public busses. Every few minutes there is a bus to the city centre. Depending on traffic it can take at least 15 minutes up to 40 minutes during rush hour. If you live outside of campus, I would recommend you purchase a semester bus ticket and if you live on campus a bus ticket would be worthwhile if you were to travel back and forth to the city centre more than three times a week. Another thing I had not considered before going to the Lancaster University was what to do with my laundry. If you are living on campus, there are multiply launderettes throughout the campus. There are multiple ways to get the machines to work but I personally found it easier to use the Circuit App (less complicated). On more thing I would recommend is to manage your time. If you go to Lancaster during the Michaelmas term you only have 11 weeks (including welcome week) to get (some) assignments done and to travel. Edinburgh and Glasgow are approximately 1.5 hours from Lancaster. In case you do manage to travel and use the train purchasing the Railcard 19-25 might be a good idea.

After the Duration

After the duration you need to upload some documents to the mobilityonline site and write your report. Be careful not to exceed the deadline. Depending on the module you have taken during your duration you might still have to work on essays after coming back.

Conclusion

Having reached the end of my Erasmus experience I can definitely say that it has been an experience which has contributed to my academic growth as well as personal development. The main motivation behind me choosing Lancaster was their extensive and various course choices they offered. If you want to take up linguistic related courses during your Erasmus period Lancaster is the place to go.