

Lancaster  
Environment Centre

Lancaster  
University



# Studying at Lancaster



A Guide for Parents



# Welcome

Choosing a degree course is not just about the subject your son or daughter will study, or where they will live for the next three or four years. From the skills they learn, the aspirations they develop and the memories they make, time spent at university has the potential to define the rest of their lives. As parents, you play a unique role in advising your son or daughter to choose the right course and university and, ultimately, help them prepare to live as independent adults as they take their first steps towards a fulfilling and hopefully prosperous future career. At Lancaster we take pride in ensuring our students are well prepared for future employment, equipped with the skills to help make the world a better and more sustainable place.

We recognise that Higher Education in the UK has altered drastically over the past few years. So, whether you have gone to university yourself, or even supported others through the application process, it is likely that some key features may have changed. We firmly believe that you as parents play an incredibly important role in assisting your son or daughter make an informed choice about their Higher Education options, so here we have collected key information, important dates, and details of the types of support available from the perspective of the parent of a future student.

Please do contact us if you have any queries about studying at Lancaster – our team is more than happy to help.

**Professor Phil Barker**  
Director, Lancaster Environment Centre

## Together we're changing the world

Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) is a truly unique multidisciplinary department composed of Geography, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Ecology and Conservation, Zoology and Biology. As one of, if not the first Environmental Science programmes in the country, we have always been pioneers, pushing the boundaries of environmental teaching and research, but we know that together we are so much more than the sum of our parts.

We are a diverse community of world-class environmental researchers, government scientists and commercial enterprises working across disciplines, and societal and national boundaries, to address the major environmental challenges facing the world. At the very heart of this community is our students.

It is our mission to understand and solve global environmental issues through our world-leading teaching, research and collaborations. We have offered hope for improving crop production by increasing photosynthesis; discovered toxic air pollution in human brains – a possible cause of Alzheimer's disease; advised Governments on an invasive crop pest threatening livelihoods in Africa and identified a new type of hazard caused by explosive volcanic eruptions. Our students and staff are making a meaningful impact both here in the UK and further afield - together we're changing the world.

## Why we're better together

- The degrees that we teach mean we can offer a wider range of modules providing greater choice and flexibility for our students
- Our Enterprise and Business Partnerships team has established relationships with hundreds of organisations, providing many opportunities for work experience or internships
- Students from all of our degrees form a close knit community, where they can share their experiences, support each other and socialise together

# Equipped for achievement

Few universities can boast facilities like ours – a 560-acre campus site which is self-contained yet well connected, and surrounded by nature but buzzing with an urban vibe. Since 2003 we have invested over £500m in our facilities. From new teaching labs to a new sports centre, and award-winning accommodation to a fully refurbished library, we've created an outstanding location to live, learn and work.

## Teaching labs and glasshouses

From developing lab skills, putting theory into practice and undertaking an independent dissertation project, our students have the use of dedicated undergraduate teaching labs.

We also have 15 rooms in our glasshouses to provide flexible growth facilities to support our plant science and ecological teaching and research. Students studying or researching a related topic have the opportunity to use this excellent facility.

Our campus contains everything anyone could possibly need including: **Post Office, Pharmacy, Bank, Dentist, Doctors, Supermarket and much more...**

## Weather monitoring station

Hazelrigg, our very own field site and weather monitoring station just 1km from campus, has provided the Met Office with atmospheric data for 50 years! Our students may visit the site as part of their course, or choose to volunteer there to help us maintain our unbroken record of weather watching.

## Sports centre and golf course

The sports centre features the very latest in top of the range sporting facilities, with a 25m pool, gym, weights room, sports hall, climbing wall and nearby 11-hole golf course. Our students find that taking part in sports is a great way to relax from studying, and with a range of membership options this is affordable for all.

## Library

Our Library has undergone a full refurbishment, creating an exceptional study space with more than 1,200 technology-enabled workspaces, training rooms and areas for group study. With a range of spaces, including silent and quiet zones, it is tailored to suit all styles of learning.

*Our Library has been ranked first in the UK in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018*

# Supporting students to succeed

We are a friendly department, fostering a highly supportive learning environment, ensuring that our students receive the support they need in order to achieve their full academic potential.

## Student Mentors

We recognise that new students may have what they consider 'silly' questions that they don't want to ask staff in the department, so we match all new Biology, Ecology and Conservation, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Geography and Zoology students with a personal Student Mentor who is on hand to guide them through the initial first few weeks of university.

## Academic Tutor

For the duration of their studies, each student has an Academic Tutor who they will meet with once per term. This provides an excellent opportunity for one-to-one discussion about academic progress.

## Student Learning Advisor

All students have access to our Student Learning Advisor who offers free consultations to help improve scientific writing, plan assignments and revise for exams – all of which ensures our students are able to achieve their full potential.

## Students' Union

Our Students' Union, LUSU, is here to represent our student body and provide support to enhance the student experience. LUSU offers advice on a wide range of

issues, covering anything from consumer rights to money management.

## College Advisors

College Advisors are a friendly face who can help with a variety of issues as well as signpost to other services. They're here to help all our students settle into university life and are available to talk to about any problems which may arise whilst at Lancaster.

## Disability Support

Adjusting to being away from home can be a difficult transition for all students, particularly if you have additional needs. We offer a range of support services with the aim of enabling students to become successful independent learners. For more information:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/disabilities](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/disabilities)

## Safe Campus

An incredibly safe campus environment, our security is ranked as 3<sup>rd</sup> in the UK

Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018

# Prepared for the future

Working closely with major graduate employers and global businesses, our Careers Service is here to ensure that all our students develop key skills, gain relevant work experience, network with employers and alumni and also to help students take their first vital steps into the world of work. We are **#2** in the UK for graduate prospects in Geography and Environmental Science in the 2021 Complete University Guide.

The services we offer include:

- Careers Fairs attracting 100+ employers
- Sector-specific events, workshops and employer networking
- Career-mentoring programme, allowing students to learn from an employer or alumni mentor
- Communications about graduate schemes, internships and work experience opportunities
- On-campus recruitment agency, offering part-time roles for students
- Lancaster Award scheme to recognise work experience, extra-curricular activities and transferable skills

## Work experience

All of our students have the opportunity to apply for an internship through the Science and Technology Internship Programme. Internships allow students to apply their academic knowledge in real-world situations, whilst developing a range of transferrable skills – both of which are particularly useful when later applying for graduate roles.

Additionally, many of our degrees offer the final year dissertation in collaboration with an external partner. These dissertations are competitive, but give students the excellent opportunity to research environmental solutions to real-world problems and gain valuable interview experience.\*

\* Dissertation collaboration with an external partner not available to students on a Study Abroad programme.

## Lasting support

We provide our graduates with lifetime access to our Careers Service. Most go straight into work or stay in academia for postgraduate study, but careers aren't always straight lines along one simple track. We know that individual aims and circumstances can change over time, so we'll always be here to help.



# Life at Lancaster

## Our collegiate advantage

We're one of a handful of elite universities that have a college structure, offering a supportive environment and a ready-made social network from day one. It doesn't just make us different – we think it makes us better.

Although we're a large University with thousands of students, the collegiate system means that our students are part of a small, friendly community where it's easy to meet new people and make new friends. Students can represent their college in sporting activities and other special events throughout the year, and even become involved in the running of the college through the common room committee. And if anyone ever needs somebody to turn to, each college has a team of experienced advisors at hand to provide guidance and welfare support.

**Students are welcome to visit and socialise in any college, giving them access to outstanding facilities across the University.**

## Sugarhouse

Our Students' Union is unique, in that it owns its own nightclub in the city centre. Popular amongst students for its star-studded calendar of guest acts, themed nights and student deals, we pride ourselves in providing **free buses back to campus** to ensure a night out is as safe and enjoyable as possible.

## Sports and Societies

**With over 200 clubs and societies**, from sports to the creative arts, there is something for everyone!

# Award winning accommodation

Our on-campus residences are regularly ranked as amongst the very best in the UK. Split amongst the eight undergraduate colleges, we have a range of different rooms available including standard rooms with shared facilities through to rooms in our eco-townhouses and even private studio rooms. We're able to **guarantee accommodation to first year students who accept our offer as their firm choice.**

Whilst we are unable to guarantee on-campus accommodation to students who choose Lancaster as their insurance choice, we do our very best to make it possible and with over 6,000 rooms available the majority are able to live on-campus in their first year.

## Accommodation costs

Accommodation prices typically range from approximately £94/week for rooms with a shared bathroom up to £154/week for rooms with private bathroom facilities\*. This is inclusive of utilities, high speed internet, insurance covering personal possessions up to the value of £10,000, 24-hour security during term time and an assisted cleaning service covering all shared areas of the accommodation\*\*. Accommodation fees are paid termly, via the University website.

## When to apply

All students who accept our offer as either their firm or insurance choice will be contacted in late May or early June inviting them to submit their choice of accommodation. We begin to offer rooms once UK exam

results have been published in mid-August and offers have been confirmed.

## Moving off campus

After the first year, many students opt to live in the city centre though they can also apply to remain on campus in their second, third (and fourth) years. Whilst we have our own city centre accommodation at Chancellor's Wharf, we also have an approval scheme for private landlords called Lancaster University Homes. Covering flats and houses across the city, we inspect every property to ensure it meets our high standards before it receives our recommendation.

For more information please visit: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/accommodation) or take a look at our different accommodation types on our iLancaster app at [m.lancs.ac.uk](http://m.lancs.ac.uk)



\*2021-22 accommodation rates are still to be confirmed

\*\*There is no cleaning service available in the studio apartments, family flats and townhouses



# FAQ's

## About the course

### What assessment methods are used?

The assessment process varies across modules, but includes laboratory reports, essays, independent project reports, group presentations, multiple-choice tests and exams. Assessment is an on-going process, rather than being left solely until the end of the degree, meaning we can offer continual feedback. This also relieves pressure when modules are examined at the end of each year.

### Do your courses include a dissertation/research project?

Yes – students will undertake a research project in their third year, which is worth 25% of the year. Those taking a MArts or MSci degree will undertake a second project in their final year, worth 50%.

### How much does each year of the course contribute to the overall degree?

In Year One time is invested in introducing core topics in preparation for future studies so that everyone has the same knowledge, irrespective of their different qualifications and pre-university experience. It also provides the opportunity to settle into university life. Marks achieved in Years Two, Three (and Four) contribute equally to the final degree classification.

### How many contact hours can a student expect?

Whilst there is no such thing as a typical week at university, in first year students can expect around 15 hours of contact time per week on average. Contact hours are greatest for degree programmes which incorporate lab-based practical work.

# FAQ's

## Financial Advice

### What financial support do you provide?

It is our priority is to support every student to make the most of their life and education and we have committed **£3.7m towards scholarships and bursaries**. The complete list of financial support can be found at:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/)

### Do you provide financial advice to students?

Our staff in The Base are able to advise students on a range of issues and, in addition, the Students' Union can also offer tips and advice on budgeting, money-saving, tax and much more.

### How much do field courses cost?

Lancaster University will cover the core fieldwork costs of any compulsory module, though students may be required to cover some additional costs (such as food). Where fieldwork is part of an optional module, part of the cost will be subsidised by Lancaster University.

## Applying to Lancaster

### How do you select which candidates to make offers to?

We make offers purely on the UCAS application, taking into account academic achievements, the personal statement and academic reference.

### How important is the personal statement?

We take the personal statement into account when reviewing applications. As well as academic achievements we also want to know that our students will work hard and are self-motivated so that they may achieve their full potential at university.

### How do you feel about gap years and applications for deferred entry?

We carefully review every application and make offers based on individual merit. Choosing to defer will not affect our decision.

### What if my son/daughter doesn't achieve their grades?

All applications are dealt with on an individual basis prior to results day, and any borderline results will be carefully reviewed by the course Admissions Tutor (which will take into account any mitigating circumstances). If, on results day, we are unable to confirm the offer, your son/daughter will need to consider the options available through UCAS Clearing.

### Does the department hold any visit days?

Yes - we will invite all offer holders to one of our Applicant Visit Days\*, which are held in February and March. During the event, your son/daughter will experience what it is like to study at Lancaster by taking part in hands-on activities, meeting our staff and students and touring our campus facilities. Even if you have already visited, we would strongly recommend returning for one of our Applicant Visit Days\* to discover more in-depth information about their chosen course.











### \*Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

We would obviously love to meet with you face-to-face and show you and your son/daughter Lancaster's campus and the department. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected how we can meet people on our campus at the moment. As the pandemic declines, we hope that restrictions on access to campus can be reduced and that you will

be able to come and meet us on campus for an Applicant Visit Day. However, if this isn't possible we will be offering digital events at which you can meet us and learn about our degrees and the University. More Information will be made available at Lancaster University's dedicated Covid-19 web pages:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants/)

## Useful dates 2021-22

Sept	Oct	Jan	Feb/Mar	May/June	Aug	Sept
 	 	 	 	 		
<b>Early September:</b> UCAS applications open for 2021 entry. If your son/daughter is made an offer to study at Lancaster University, they will initially be sent a confirmation email as well as further information from the Lancaster Environment Centre, inviting them to an Applicant Visit Day*	<b>15th October:</b> UCAS application deadline for Oxford and Cambridge	<b>15th January:</b> UCAS application deadline	<b>25th February:</b> UCAS Extra opens, allowing students not holding any offers to make a further application <b>February/March:</b> Applicant Visit Days* <b>31st March:</b> Decisions due back from universities for all pre-January 15th applications	<b>Early May:</b> deadline for students to make their firm and insurance choices <b>Late May:</b> Student Finance applications close <b>Late May/Early June:</b> All applicants who choose Lancaster as their firm or insurance choice will be invited to apply for on-campus accommodation	<b>Mid-August:</b> A-level results day <b>31st August:</b> Any remaining offer conditions must be met	<b>Late September:</b> Welcome week (Courses commence early October)



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### Connect with us

Facebook: @LancasterEnvironmentCentre  
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**Disclaimer:** The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2021/22 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2020. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the information as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at **[www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)** for up-to-date information before you submit your application.

Further legal information may be found at **[www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice)**