The City of Lancaster is around three miles north of Lancaster University and easily accessible from campus by bus and bike, or taxi if you’re out very late. The city is also well connected by both road and rail - only one hour from Manchester and 2.5 hours from London by direct train.

Lancaster is a city with traditional charm and a modern outlook. A friendly student city called home by a diverse and welcoming community.

“You will be welcome here; Lancaster is full of students who are very social and fun to hang out with.”

Csenge Karl, Cartmel College

Contents

City

04 Heritage
06 Meet
08 Eat
10 Browse
12 After hours
14 Big weekends
16 Day trips
18 Adventure
20 Travel
22 Getting here
The City of Lancaster is a wonderful neighbour to campus. Its fascinating heritage and stunning architecture give student life an impressive setting. Whilst Lancaster Castle and the Ashton Memorial dominate the city’s skyline, traditional cobbled streets and secret lanes offer old-world character to explore.

"I love the old charm of the streets, the beautiful monuments and the general atmosphere."
Maria Clark, Cartmel College

"I really like to visit Williamson Park. It’s a great place to go for a walk in nature. They have a really lovely café, so I like to go and get a hot chocolate."
Phoebe McEwen, Pendle College

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk
Meet

Lancaster’s coffee quarter has a long history. Our primary roaster opened its doors in 1837. Alongside are a host of cafes depending on your mood. Relax in the vegan oasis of Herbarium, keep it cozy in Brew or hit some familiar favourites like Starbucks or Café Nero. Many cafes open late into the evening and offer space for music, comedy, gaming and more.

"I love to stay in one of the cafes and write or read for the entire day. A lot of the cafes are amazing and really comfortable."

Fuk Ching Wong, Graduate College

"The Storey or Atkinson’s has the best coffee. My favourite place for brunch is Journey Social."

Niamh Harrison, Graduate College

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk

For more details about cafes, visit lancaster.ac.uk/cafes
Eat

A weekend-lunching fry-up, grid-worthy brunch options, a cup of late-night coffee, a traditional Sunday roast, vegan treats. Lancaster has a plateful of options if you have the appetite.

“Full House Noodle Bar is good because of the filling menu and welcoming atmosphere.”
Raven Trigo, Bowland College

“The Secret Bistro does the best Sunday roast in Lancaster and Casa Rastelli has amazing cakes.”
Csenge Karl, Cartmel College
For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk

You’ll find the big brands you recognise on our high street, but Lancaster has hidden gems around every corner with a thriving independent retail scene. Finding something unique that suits you has never been easier.

"Exploring the shops is always interesting and fun to do with friends."
Raven Trigo, Bowland College

Weekly charter market

High street shopping

Sustainable shopping at Wild not Waste

Unique stationery at Analog

King Street Canopy

Vintage clothes shopping at the Assembly Rooms
After hours

We might be smaller than some cities, but Lancaster makes up for its size with variety. Nightlife is no exception. Late night cafés, art spaces, music venues and pop up spaces can be found alongside pubs, clubs and bars to suit every vibe.

An evening at the cinema

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk

“A night out for me and my mates would be Squires - the pool and snooker hall in Lancaster. Then we like the student nightclub, Sugar.”
Ryan Yates, Grizedale College

“There’s a lot to do in the evenings. My perfect evening would be chilled out drinks at Tipple. I really like the Boot and Shoe pub quiz on Thursdays or live music at the Golden Lion.”
Catherine Brabin, County College

We might be smaller than some cities, but Lancaster makes up for its size with variety. Nightlife is no exception. Late night cafés, art spaces, music venues and pop up spaces can be found alongside pubs, clubs and bars to suit every vibe.
There’s big festival energy right on your doorstep. Make the most of your weekends with the region’s largest open air music festival, Highest Point, or try something different at the kitsch filled Vintage by the Sea in nearby Morecambe.

Big weekends

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk
Day trips

We’re lucky to have a stunning coastline close by. Take in the views over the bay on coastal paths, or enjoy quirky, kitsch seaside spots like Morecambe and Blackpool for a great day out. You can even get involved in the bubbling indie arts scene of arts studios and projects popping up next to Morecambe’s promenade.

“I like Morecambe because there is a beach and you can watch beautiful sunsets over the sea.”
Fuk Ching Wong, Graduate College

“I love Blackpool because of the theme park and arcades”
Raven Trigo, Bowland College

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk
Adventure

The countryside surrounding Lancaster has inspired some of the world’s most renowned artists, poets and explorers and we’re sure it will inspire you too. Lancaster sits on the edge of the Trough of Bowland. Steeped in history, it holds many of the secrets of the Pendle Witches - the namesake of one of our colleges. A little further is the Lake District National Park, a popular world heritage site. Believe us, it’s worth the trip.

“Grizedale Forest has some beautiful walking trails and lots of sculptures to discover.”
Phoebe McEwen, Pendle College

“I go up to the Lake District because there’s just so much to explore. Whether you’re interested in hiking, exploring, watersports or just ambiling around the towns, there’s plenty to see.”
Marla Clark, Cartmel College

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk
For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk

Cycle stands are available across campus and most colleges have secure cycle stores.

A canal side cycle route from the city offers a mainly traffic-free option.

Walking routes to campus.

Travel

Bus is the most popular way to travel between the city and uni, with over 14 buses an hour during the day in term time and discounted passes available. There's also a choice of scenic, off-road walking and cycling routes - the city is only 20 minutes away by bike or about an hour walking. If you prefer the convenience of a taxi, there's two taxi ranks on campus.

Lune Millennium Bridge, part of the National Cycle Network.

Most students travel between campus and the city by bus.
Getting here

Great train links and being close to the motorway makes Lancaster well connected and easy to get to. The City of Lancaster is just 30 minutes from the Lake District, one hour from Manchester, two hours from Birmingham or 2.5 hours from central London by train. Manchester Airport is just over an hour away by train.

For more information, please visit lancaster.ac.uk