

Academics: Course and Credit Information
Lancaster University
Updated July 2011

Choosing the Right Subjects

- The Lancaster University study abroad course catalog is accessed through the GlobalLinks website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID468/>
- You may then browse the course selections by Department or subject area (i.e. accounting, history, etc.
- Each listing shows the course number code, title, both the U.S. and ECTS credit value, and the term/s the class is expected to run.
- The academic year at Lancaster is divided into three terms: Michaelmas (October – December), Lent (January – March), and Summer (April – June). There is an optional four week Pre-Session (mid-August to mid-September) available to study abroad students for a supplemental fee. Students who want to study abroad in the spring will enroll in both the Lent and Summer terms as classes, called “modules,” usually span the length of both terms. Each course is assigned both U.S. semester credits and ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits.

- **Note: Courses often last for more than one term. ‘Terms taught’ means:**

FY = a course taught throughout the academic year

M = a course taught in the Michaelmas term

LS = a course taught in the Lent and Summer terms

S = a course taught entirely in the Summer term

M or L = a course taught in *either* the Michaelmas *or* Lent term

N/A – a course will not be taught in the year shown. It may be taught in future terms.

- Many courses are taught continuously across two or three terms and designated full year (FY) in the course listings. However, many of these courses can be taken for Michaelmas or Lent/Summer only, covering just one part of the course material and counting for proportionally fewer credits. If the full year courses are open to students who study during the Michaelmas or Lent/Summer only, it will be indicated in the course description.
- Modules are listed by subject. Students should pay particular attention to the Term, Level, and prerequisites. **100-level** courses are usually equivalent to lower division courses in North America (Sophomore level). **200 and 300-level** courses are usually equivalent to upper division courses in North America (Junior and Senior level).
- Please note that third year English Literature and Creative Writing courses are very competitive due to high demand from local students.
- All of the courses listed are regular University courses, taken by students studying for Lancaster University degrees. None are offered exclusively to study abroad students.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

Prerequisites and Course Approval

- When you have been accepted to the GlobalLinks program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing 8-10 modules that you would be interested in taking at Lancaster in order of priority.
- Some modules will have prerequisites. During the on-site course registration at Lancaster, academic departments will review your transcripts to ensure that you have met these prerequisites with equivalent classes. They will not, in most cases, require that you have taken their exact class but one with similar content.
- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to GlobalLinks so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated. If your current semester courses are not listed on the transcript you submitted with your GlobalLinks application you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite.
- It is important to apply for modules for which you have the appropriate academic background. For example, don't plan to take a Third Year biology course if you have only taken one biology course prior to study abroad at Lancaster.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- To begin the enrollment process, students must choose at least 8-10 modules that they would be interested in taking at Lancaster **in order of priority**. Depending on the credit value of each course, a normal load is 3-6 courses.
- There is no pre-registration for courses at Lancaster and courses cannot be guaranteed in advance. All registration takes place during orientation. The ISP will be reviewed by the Lancaster International Office academic advisor prior to arrival in order to provide guidance, if necessary, to the students regarding their course plan.
- You may drop or add courses during the first two weeks of the term. Therefore, you may register during orientation for more courses than normal in order to determine which is most suitable. After the two-week drop/add period, dropping a course is normally not allowed.
- A few courses are limited as to class size (indicated in the course descriptions) and occasionally there will be clashes in timetables. You will need to verify timetables and course conflicts with the specific departments at the time of on-site registration. This cannot be confirmed in advance.
- There is no guarantee that all courses will be available every year and timetable conflicts can also arise, so list your selection in order of preference. Please make it clear if you have specific alternatives should your first choice not be available.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of modules. This is why it is crucial that students have multiple module choices in order of priority.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

- Exams for the Fall semester typically occur during January, after Study Abroad students usually depart. All Michaelmas course lectures finish before Christmas. Final assessment for these modules is through papers, class projects or other methods. Michaelmas only students will not be expected to stay for the term examination period in January.
- Students attending for the academic year or Lent/Summer term MUST complete all coursework and take final examinations (held in May/June). Specific exam schedules are not available until mid-Spring. Students should arrange their travel plans accordingly as exams cannot be rescheduled. There is no fee reduction for tuition or accommodations should your exam schedule permit you to leave prior to the official end of the term.

Academic Differences between the U.K. and the U.S./Canada

Students in England typically attend university for three years, beginning courses in their major during their first semester since there is not a "general studies" requirement like most U.S. and Canadian four-year institutions. The first year of study is equivalent to a U.S. Sophomore level as British students have one more year of schooling prior to attending the University. In the British higher education system, there is little formal teaching in the Summer term as students are completing their assignments and preparing for the exams.

GlobaLinks Learning Abroad

12050 N. Pecos Street, Suite 320 • Westminster, CO 80234 | tel: +1.303.446.2214 • 1.800.980.0033 • fax: +1.303.446.5955
studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org | www.globalinksabroad.org

GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

Lancaster University

Result	Descriptor	Grade	Aggregation Score
Pass	Excellent	A+	24
		A	21
		A-	18
Pass	Good	B+	17
		B	16
		B-	15
Pass	Satisfactory	C+	14
		C	13
		C-	12
Pass	Weak	D+	11
		D	10
		D-	9
Fail	Marginal Fail	F1	7
	Fail	F2	4
	Poor Fail	F3	2
	Very Poor Fail	F4	0

Students' transcripts will show an aggregation score on a 24 point scale for each class the student has taken. The above table is a guide to assist in understanding the University's numerical grading. GlobalLinks and its partner Universities recognize that the transfer of credits and conversion of marks for students who have participated in the Study Abroad Program is the responsibility of the visiting student's home institution.

Students studying full time at Lancaster University may take 28-32 credits for the full academic year, 4 for the pre-session International Summer term, 12 for the Michaelmas term (Fall semester) and 16-20 during the Lent/Summer terms (Spring semester). The Lancaster U. modules are listed in both U.S. semester credit hours and ECTS. Transcripts will be released to GlobalLinks following the completion of each semester. Michaelmas (Fall) term students can expect transcripts in February and Lent/Summer term students can expect transcripts in late July/early August.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

12050 N. Pecos Street, Suite 320 • Westminster, CO 80234 | tel: +1.303.446.2214 • 1.800.980.0033 • fax: +1.303.446.5955
studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org | www.globalinksabroad.org