

My name is Alexander Lu, or 呂其恩. I'm a master's student of Hua Fan University. I would like to consider myself a reasonably diligent student studying Industrial Design. I've received word of 學海飛揚 scholarship from my tutor as well as from the Public Relations Office from my university; I am glad to be accepted as one of the many fortunate students to have access to this scholarship.

Due to my persistent interest in industrial design and also the opportunity provided by my university, the dual master's degree program, I was able to be accepted into the MA Product Design program at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK.

Leicester is a small city located near Birmingham and about three hours drive from London. The town is extremely rowdy at times but overall in terms of everyday convenience the city is not only student-friendly, but also equipped with easy-to-access transportation (taxi, buses, coaches, trains, etc.). Also low priced stores are populated around the city as well almost as if to ensure that its international students will have an enjoyable time here.

De Montfort University itself was founded in 1870 with a long history in providing great education to its local inhabitants. De Montfort was well known for its reputation from the School of Arts. The teachers at the university were extremely friendly and aim to provide its students with maximum career-seeking opportunities after graduation. The university is completed with 15 schools, innovation center, and state of the art sports & leisure center.

The MA Product Design course is highly informative, unlike my experiences at Taiwan's universities. The tutor for the MA Product Design was very helpful and flexible, teaching the course with a very light atmosphere, yet at the same time the influx of information and knowledge are coming in naturally and quickly that if one wasn't to quickly review it once the course is over it would be too late to realize just how much information was given to you without you realizing it. The other course leaders, or course teachers, are also very easily approachable and helpful, which is very helpful to learning. The teachers are seemingly able to remove as much pressure as possible from the students to ensure the study environment was as pleasurable as possible. Additionally, due to the nature of my program, the use of workshops were a necessity. The university has very well-funded workshops with high end equipment to help the students finish their project. For example, the plastic workshop for molding and shaping plastics has well-trained, full-time technicians armed with industrial level CNC, Rapid-Prototyping machines (that are not outdated!) available during school hours so the students do not injure themselves and are able to quickly put their ideas into physical forms.

The university also give students reasonable breaks and time to complete their course work and dissertation. As the international experience is only thorough if the student is able to explore his or her surroundings to further expand their field of vision and understand the environment. The well-timed breaks from the university were spent on traveling for research for my dissertation and to see England and Europe in all their glory.

My stay in the UK was very enjoyable, probably the best time of my life without exaggeration. Both school and life were wonderful, the high diversity of the city made contact with various cultures possible and the constructive helpfulness of the tutors at De Montfort University only adds on to the great learning experience. If possible, I would like to relive the experience again.