

**Cranfield
University**

International **Student Guide**

2018-19

Welcome

As an international student, studying abroad is an exciting and challenging prospect. This guide aims to provide useful information about studying and living at Cranfield University.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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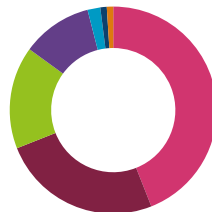


The Cranfield community

Cranfield University is located across two sites: Cranfield near Bedford and Shrivenham near Swindon. We are a truly international community where postgraduate students from all over the world come together for their education.

Why choose Cranfield University?

We have a vibrant and diverse student body. Our students represent more than 100 different nationalities, ensuring your experience reflects the global workplace.



- UK – 53%
- Europe – 21%
- Asia – 16%
- Africa – 6%
- North America – 2%
- South America – 1%
- Oceania – 1%

Travelling to the UK

There are many things to think about when planning your travel to the UK.

Take a look at the checklist on page 14 for important things you need to do before you arrive in the UK.

Airport meeting service

If you are flying to a London airport, you can take advantage of our free transport service. You will automatically receive a notification to book this service once you have accepted your offer and met all your offer conditions. This service applies to the Cranfield campus only.

What to pack

The climate in the UK is variable so you need clothes for warm and cold weather and an umbrella. During the summer (May - Sep), the temperature can range from 10° to 30°C and during the winter (Oct - April), average temperatures are between 1° and 5°C. Rainfall occurs throughout the year.

Remember to pack:

- clothing and shoes for all seasons,
- plug adaptors for electrical items - UK plug sockets take three rectangular pins,
- familiar items such as photos of friends and family,
- books and study notes that may be useful for your course.

Keep all your original important documents and any valuable items in your hand luggage while in transit (remember to stay within the airline cabin baggage weight limit). Bring sufficient money in Sterling for your first two weeks.



Arriving in the UK



When you arrive at the airport, you pass through immigration control before collecting your luggage.

Entering the UK

A border officer checks your passport and visa/entry clearance. When you enter the UK with a Tier 4 visa, the border officer must be satisfied that you speak English at the required level, without needing an interpreter.

You should carry the following documents in your hand luggage, in paper form:

- evidence of your studies (your letter from Cranfield and your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies number if you are coming to the UK as a Tier 4 student),
- evidence of your finances – such as a recent bank statement,
- evidence of where you are going to stay.



For more information on travelling to the UK, visit:

www.gov.uk/uk-border-control

www.ukcisa.org.uk – Information and advice > Travel to your institution

Tier 4 visa information

Applying for your visa

You can apply for your Tier 4 visa from outside or inside the UK, depending on your current visa status. You can apply and pay for your application online. If you are applying from outside the UK, you can only apply for your visa three months before the start of your course. If you apply earlier, your visa application will be refused.

For more information, read our guide to applying for your visa, this can be found at www.cranfield.ac.uk/tier4visa

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

You will need a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number in order to apply for your Tier 4 visa.

To get your CAS number you need to have:

1. accepted your course offer
2. met all conditions of your offer as stated in your offer letter

Once you have completed these steps you will receive an email inviting you to complete the CAS request task. You must complete the CAS task in order to obtain your CAS number.



Keeping up to date

The visa application process is under constant review so it is important that you keep up to date with new developments. You can find all the information that you need on the UK Visas and Immigration website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

Advice and guidance

We offer advice and guidance on how to apply for your Tier 4 visa. If you have any queries regarding this, contact the Student Immigration team:

E: studentimmigration@cranfield.ac.uk

For more information on the Tier 4 visa application process, visit:
www.cranfield.ac.uk/tier4visa

Living in the UK

Budgeting for life in the UK

Your lifestyle, including the food you eat and how you spend your leisure time, impacts on the amount of money you need.

Our advice is that if you are single, you need approximately £1,100 per month; couples £1,700 per month; and more, if you are living as a family.

Food

Buying fresh rather than processed food is a good way to stay healthy and to reduce spending. Markets and supermarkets provide a huge variety of fresh food and often include international sections. We estimate a single person spends in the region of £40-£50 per week on food.

Heating, lighting and water

Utility charges are included in accommodation on-campus but often not included in accommodation off-campus. When choosing off-campus accommodation, it is a good idea to ask about the average utility charges.

Books and equipment

You need to budget for items that help with your course. Many books and reference materials are accessible through our libraries and you may be able to purchase course books second-hand.

Clothing

If you are travelling from a country with a warmer climate than the UK, it is recommended you budget between £350 and £450 for warm winter clothing.

Travel

Train, coach and bus networks cover the country. Advanced tickets can often be booked online or at local stations in order to save money. For regular journeys, passes may be purchased to reduce the cost.

Entertainment

Budgeting to pursue interests beyond your academic studies is important. There are some attractions in the UK which are free such as national art galleries and museums.



For more information about budgeting, visit:
international.studentcalculator.org
blogs.cranfield.ac.uk/budgeting



UK culture

- Punctuality is valued in the UK so you should try to arrive on time to meetings and teaching sessions.
- You are expected to queue, for example, when in a bank, shop or waiting for a bus.
- Men and women have equal rights in the UK. It is illegal to discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, gender and sexual orientation.
- When you take a taxi or are in a restaurant you may wish to tip, 10-15% is normal.
- Smoke free: Since 2007, smoking has been banned in all workplaces, pubs and restaurants in the UK.
- Pub culture: 'Pub' is an abbreviation of 'Public house' - a popular place for people to spend an evening together. Many serve food and all offer both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Healthcare

You need to pay the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge (IHS) as part of your visa application. If you choose to take out private medical insurance, you still need to pay this charge.

Doctors

You need to register with a local doctor, known as a General Practitioner (GP), when you arrive. Students are entitled to free essential healthcare from a GP, at an

NHS walk-in centre or hospital. Dentists, opticians and prescriptions will all incur additional charges.

Driving in the UK

To drive in the UK, you must have a valid driving licence, insurance and car tax. As an international student, you may be able to drive with a non-UK driving licence for up to a year (see www.gov.uk). Remember to bring your driving licence with you in case you are planning to drive.



A different way of life

It is normal to experience 'culture shock' when you arrive in the UK. Here are some tips to help with the transition:

- speak to other international students,
- get plenty of exercise, eat well and rest,
- join one of the clubs and societies,
- keep treasured things around you such as photographs,
- find familiar foods – look in supermarkets and local specialist food stores,
- if you are finding the situation difficult, speak to the Student Advice Centre.

Student support

The Student Advice Centre advisors offer confidential advice and guidance on a wide range of issues including specific support needs (e.g. learning, disability, emotional wellbeing) and general advice on managing day-to-day finances.



For more information on living in the UK, visit:

www.ukcisa.org.uk – Information and advice > Living in the UK

Life at Cranfield

Cranfield is a truly international community where a diverse group of postgraduate students (often with their families) come together to benefit from a stimulating and professional learning environment. It offers a chance to make worldwide, lasting friendships.

Accommodation

Cranfield

There is a wide range of accommodation available on-campus including four halls of residence, shared houses, studio flats and family houses. All our accommodation is furnished and centrally heated with free wifi.

There are also many different types of accommodation available off-campus.

For more information on off-campus accommodation, visit

www.cranfieldstudentpad.co.uk

Shrivenham

International students studying at Shrivenham will need to find accommodation off campus. Privately rented houses, flats or rooms are available either in the nearby village or the local towns.

For more information on off-campus accommodation, visit

www.shrivenhamstudentpad.co.uk

Cranfield Student Association (CSA)

As a student of Cranfield University, you are automatically a member of the Cranfield Students' Association (CSA), a student-led, democratic organisation which operates at both Cranfield and Shrivenham. The CSA represents and supports students, and enhances your student experience in many ways.

CSA representatives sit on almost all University committees, providing a student voice throughout the University. It provides advice and support, and can signpost students to specialised services if required. The CSA runs a wide range of activities and entertainment, day trips, sports clubs and cultural/social societies. Many of these are run by students, providing opportunities for personal development and experience.

For more information visit

www.mycsa.org.uk



For more information about life at Cranfield, visit:

www.cranfield.ac.uk/lifeatcranfield

www.cranfield.ac.uk/lifeatshrivenham

Meet Lijin

“I now have a network of people I can call on in my professional life. The bonds I have made here are stronger than those from my undergraduate years and I know they will last”.

The Cranfield experience has shown me that it's ok to be inquisitive, and curious, to discuss ideas, to pursue these with passion and to demand quality and pride in my work.

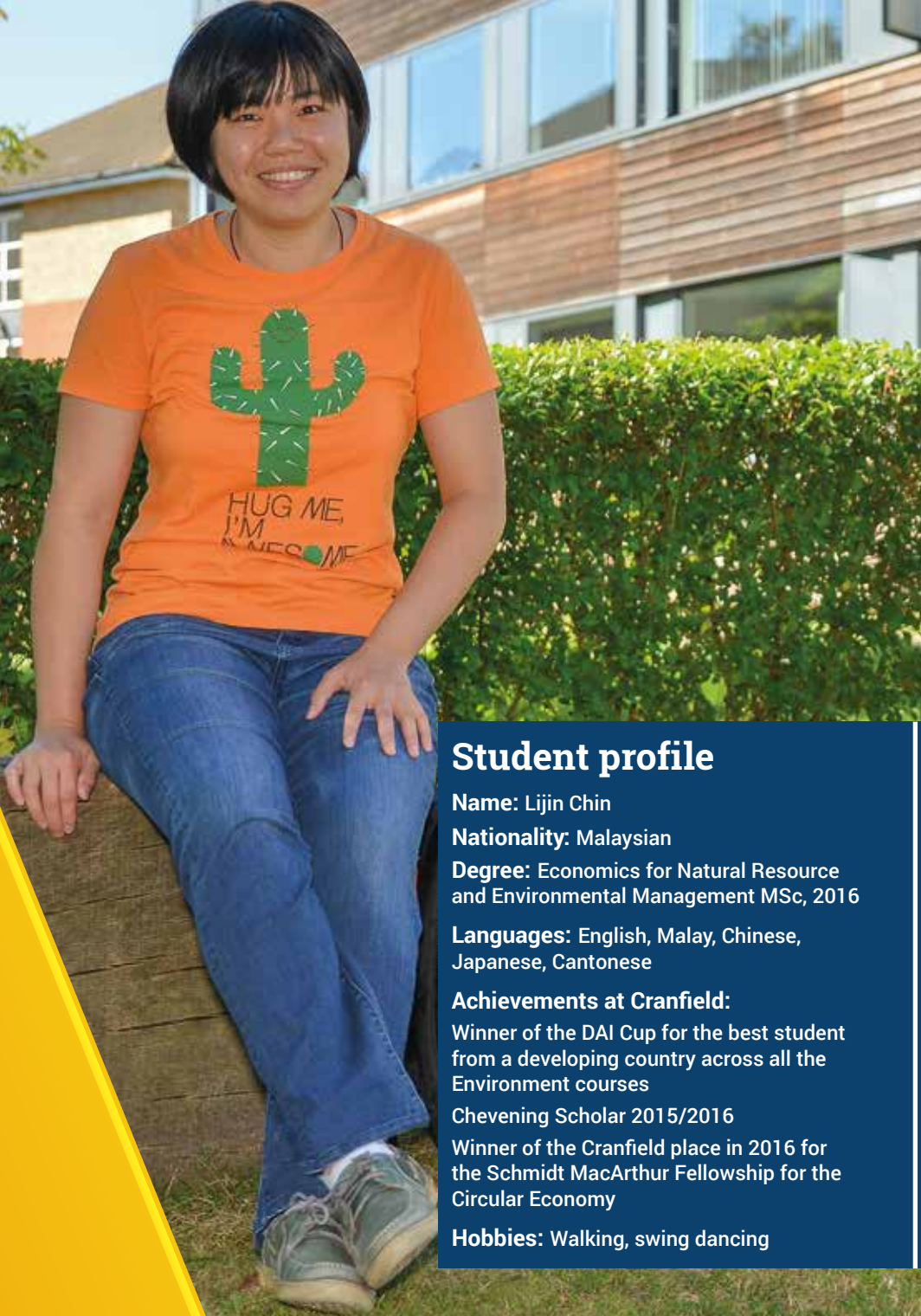
After working for three years, I wanted something additional to stimulate and challenge me, so I decided to pursue a master's degree. Studying at Cranfield is a truly enjoyable experience. My small class size means we have become a tight-knit group, respecting each other in how we work and learn together.

I walk a lot and love exploring areas near my house in Cranfield village. I've also joined the Jiu Jitsu club and have been on lots of trips including the Bedford Beer and Cider Festival, London, Oxford and Warwick. London is easy to get to, so I have visited quite a few times. I shop at various places, including the market in Milton Keynes and local stores in Cranfield village. I frequently visit the specialist Chinese shop in the food centre in Milton Keynes.

During my studies, I have attended some public lectures and organised lunches and dinners with my friends. It is great to be able to share stories and experiences from our different backgrounds.

There are many people here with amazing stories to share. It is an intense year but be patient, keep working to your best and go with the flow. There is help and support available so seek it if you need to.

For more information about life at Cranfield, visit:
blogs.cranfield.ac.uk/life-on-campus



Student profile

Name: Lijin Chin

Nationality: Malaysian

Degree: Economics for Natural Resource and Environmental Management MSc, 2016

Languages: English, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Cantonese

Achievements at Cranfield:

Winner of the DAI Cup for the best student from a developing country across all the Environment courses

Chevening Scholar 2015/2016

Winner of the Cranfield place in 2016 for the Schmidt MacArthur Fellowship for the Circular Economy

Hobbies: Walking, swing dancing

Arrival checklists



Some or all of these things will apply to you:

Before you arrive

- Make sure you have a valid passport.
- Accept your course offer.
- Satisfy conditions of offer.
- Pay your deposit.
- Apply for accommodation.
- Pay accommodation deposit.
- Book the Airport Meeting service.
- Have medical examination, vaccinations and Tuberculosis test if necessary.
- Obtain your Tier 4 visa.
- Arrange travel insurance.
- Plan your budget.
- Buy currency.
- Prepare any documents needed.
- Complete pre-registration task in the student portal, EVE.

✓ When you arrive

- Tell your family you have arrived safely.
- Attend registration.
- Pay your tuition fees.
- Pay your accommodation fees.
- Collect your student ID card.
- Register with the police.
- Open a bank account.
- Register with a doctor.
- Attend welcome and induction sessions.
- Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). Search www.gov.uk



Useful contact details



Cranfield University

University enquiries

Course and fee information

E: study@cranfield.ac.uk

T: +44 (0)1234 758540

www.cranfield.ac.uk/enquiries

Cranfield Student Association (CSA)

Sport, social and societies

www.mycsa.org.uk

Visa applications and ATAS

www.cranfield.ac.uk/visa

Useful web links

Up-to-date immigration rules

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visa-and-immigration

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

Information on living, studying and working in the UK

www.ukcisa.org.uk

ATAS information

www.fco.gov.uk/atas

Off-campus accommodation – Cranfield studentpad

www.cranfieldstudentpad.co.uk

Off-campus accommodation – Shrivenham studentpad

www.shrivenhamstudentpad.co.uk

National Health Service (NHS)

www.nhs.uk

International student budget calculator

Budgeting, shopping, bills, student experiences

international.studentcalculator.org

UK weather

www.bbc.co.uk/weather

The British Council

Information on living and studying in the UK

www.educationuk.org

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