

HOME FROM HOME: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Liverpool Hope attracts a range of students from across the UK and beyond.

Kate Waswas is a final year English Language student, who made the move from the Isle of Man to study at Liverpool Hope. Here she shares her story:



I'm 20 years old, was born and raised in the Philippines for seven years, and I now live on the Isle of Man.

I'm a joyful and energetic person and I love to help people. My friends would describe me as creative. I like to try out different hobbies from time to time, like playing guitar, painting, writing poetry, hiking and crocheting.

I love trying new things. I'm also never scared to face a challenge or adventure — that's probably why I like hiking and travelling — I think this makes life very exhilarating and fun!

FROM THE ISLE OF MAN TO LIVERPOOL HOPE

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE LIVERPOOL HOPE?

I was attracted to the University mainly because of its campus. The gardens are beautiful. As someone who loves nature and the outdoors, I was immediately drawn to Hope. I was also attracted by the small campuses. Compared to other universities, Hope wasn't overwhelming for someone who is from a small island.

DID YOU STAY IN HALLS OF RESIDENCE AND HOW DID YOU FIND IT?

In my first year I lived in Creative Campus. This campus was so beautiful, from the gardens to the Cornerstone building. The accommodation was also great, the

facilities and the size of the rooms were perfect for a first-year student.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF SETTLING INTO LIFE AT HOPE?

Adapting to university has been quite fun for me. Growing up, I was moving around a lot and travelling, which made settling in easy for me, because I was used to living in different environments.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT CAMPUS LIFE?

Life on campus is definitely an experience. I enjoy living independently. I don't have to rely on my parents for food, cleaning or doing the laundry - it's all on me. I



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also enjoy cooking my own recipes and I've definitely picked up some of mum's kitchen mannerisms! The social aspect of living on campus is also great, everyone is welcoming and friendly.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO NEW STUDENTS?

- Don't bring too many things for your room, because you'll end up buying new

LIFE IN LIVERPOOL

HOW DIFFERENT IS LIVERPOOL TO HOME?

The main difference between Liverpool and Douglas is that Liverpool is a big city, whereas Douglas is a town - which means it's a lot smaller. Liverpool definitely has more options when it comes to shopping and eating at restaurants.

ARE THERE ANY SIMILARITIES WITH DOUGLAS?

Similarities have got to be the people - everyone is very friendly. Douglas has quite a few Scousers and I guess this makes them quite similar. The accent is very prominent and sometimes you pick up a bit of Scouse!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT LIVERPOOL?

I like how Liverpool is full of surprises. It has many things going on, it's not always the same events happening one after the other. There's always something to do.

IF YOU COULD RECOMMEND ONE HOTSPOT IN THE CITY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

One of my favourite hotspots in Liverpool has got to be Bold Street. I think it's because it has the Cat Cafe and I love cats!

things anyway! Just bring things that are necessary.

- Try to explore Liverpool and what it has to offer — like a tourist basically! When you understand the culture of an area, you learn more about it, and eventually it will feel like home.
- Have fun and enjoy every moment of being independent.

I love the independent shops located there - you can find a lot of unique products. You also can't go wrong with the Albert Docks. It's a place I take my friends whenever they visit me.

HOW HAVE YOU SETTLED INTO LIVING IN LIVERPOOL?

I've definitely settled in well. Since my first year, I've been saying how Liverpool has become my second home. I think it's mainly the people I've surrounded myself with, I've joined a church and they have been so welcoming since day one. The congregation's very loving just like my home church in Douglas - it's just like my second home!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A STUDENT MOVING FROM NORTHERN IRELAND?

I'd say to try new things. Try and put yourself out there and surround yourself with people who are like you. Join clubs at University that suit you or clubs that intrigue you. Often people want to stay in their comfort zone, but when you're moving from home you're out of your comfort zone. Go out there and try new things!

