

2012-2013

University Attended Arizona State University

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

The induction involved a three day process of information lectures, campus tours, pep rally's and general administration of university documents. The first day was geared especially towards the incoming exchange students and was a great way to meet all the new faces and organise social activities. All administrative issues such as student cards etc were sorted out on this day. The second day was a general induction day for all freshman and exchange students (close to 15,000 at ASU) and the third being the activity fairs and campus tours.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

On average all courses are significantly easier than those in the UK. A fourth year level course would be comparable to most first/second year courses at Manchester. Lectures for upper level courses are generally smaller in size and only have between 20-30 people. They occur either twice a week per topic for an 1.15hr per session or once weekly for a 2.45hr session. However class hours are extremely different to the UK and a 7.30am to 8.45am lecture is very common as well as 6.00pm to 8.45pm. Due to the heat no classes tend to take place during the midday hours. Access to courses was quick and easy via a regularly updated Blackboard network. All exams in which I participated were multiple choice, with no negative marking systems and these were in addition to few group term projects. Teaching support was offered through office hours of the respective professors.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Prior to traveling MBS were extremely helpful with the sorting of documents required for travel and information on our destinations. During the experience they remained in touch at a level that was sufficient but not annoying.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Although this was not a problem personally experienced as I am of legal age, a better explanation of the severity of underage drinking in the US and the significant fines that can accrue because of these acts.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students

Excellent all year round.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

Mandatory ASU health insurance plan of \$1600 for the year. Without subscription you were not allowed to register for classes.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

Roughly \$600 in mandatory student services and facility fees. Although stated above not to mention books, but the average book price is roughly 4 times that of the UK, with most books around the \$150 mark. I purchased the exact same book my brother had bought for a course at Oxford university and paid \$180 compared to £45 back home.

An additional note noticed by all UK exchange students from the UK is the significant lack of financial help from our home institutions compared to those from New Zealand and Australia.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

Avoid all university accommodation as it is dated and all rooms are dual occupancy. The majority of ASU's student body live in purpose built apartment complexes around the edge of campus. All have similar facilities – pool, beach volleyball, on-site gym, barbeque pits etc. However they differ on price through location and age. Recommended properties are Vista del sol, the district, the hub on campus and gateway. A slightly more exclusive property is W6.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

Transport to elsewhere in the US is exceptionally easy with Phoenix Sky Harbour airport being only fifteen minutes from campus and this being a major hub airport. Travel to and from the UK is easy as well with daily direct flight from Phoenix to London. Around Tempe public transport is shocking and people rely on taxis or a bicycle, which is a must purchase upon arrival. An additional tip is to sign up for the on campus zipcar service which offers short term car rental at \$7 an hour.

Travel within the state of Arizona is a must with areas like the Grand Canyon/Sedona within a few hours drive. Southern California and LA is also within driving distance as well. Coachella, the world famous music festival is only a 3hr drive away. However the weather is so glorious year that it is hard to leave.

Leave all your warm clothes at home, as swimsuits are worn to and from class all year round. ASU is constantly voted the number one party school in the country and this is because the social life at ASU centres around the amazing weather. 50% of the time spent on exchange will be in temperatures of 100+ Fahrenheit and this is why the outdoor community of ASU comes out to play. Hours by the pool are a regular between classes and huge pool parties dominate weekends. Tempe also has a fantastic town centre with a crazy amount of bars, shops and restaurants and the glamorous old town Scottsdale is only 20 minutes away. Greek life does not dominate the school however becoming part of a sports team or organisation is encouraged. I was fortunate to join the Kappa Sigma fraternity and although it was a long and hard process, it is one I will never forget. Even in winter temperatures rarely get to below 60 Fahrenheit.

Being one of only 5 out of nearly 150 exchange students to stay the entire year, I can say I had a very unique experience. Local students are extremely welcoming and friendly however a clear way of life difference is evident. Friendships with fellow exchange students from Australia and New Zealand formed quickly and remained throughout my time as they had similar views on how best to enjoy our precious time.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Amazing opportunities, amazing friends and a year long party in the sun!!

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

Involved a day of listening to different people talk, a lunch and then looking around different tables with things such as being able to sign up for a season ticket.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

Lectures was mainly the style of teaching but also a lot of 'learn by doing' depending on the courses taken. Courses were fairly easy to access Methods of assessment varied. Predominately multiple choice but I took a lot of classes which involved projects such as creating marketing plans, taking part in running virtual companies and also carrying out projects for real life companies. Further had lots of presentations which went towards final grades and group work in almost every class which included papers and giving presentations.

Teaching support varied depending on classes but in general teachers were supportive.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Cost of going to different institutions (students need to refer to the individual websites for information on this – weblinks are on the UG Intranet for this purpose)

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

Not waived.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

University charged lots of extra costs - about an extra 400 dollars ontop of the 900 dollar health insurance each semester so was around 2600 dollars in total for additional costs.

I bought a bike when first getting here so cost of transport was not much but the uni does run a shuttle however that only goes around the outside of campus so I feel a bike was the best way to get around.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

DO **NOT** live in the student accommodation the university tell you too. Live at Vista del Sol, the 922 place if you want a quiet studying place. Opening up is the Hub (which looks amazing and all my friends are choosing to live there next year) and the district. Both are close to campus.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

Amazing destination, beautiful places to see, social life was amazing with constant parties and people going out.

Integration with other students was really easy everyone loves the English accent and talks to you so it is easy to make friends

Social life; two main places to go out; Mill and Scottsdale. Slightly different to home since Mill has predominantly bars whereas Scottsdale is nightclubs. Don't expect them to be like Manchester they are much more chilled out and not as busy.

Lots of house music everywhere.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The most amazing experience of my life, I don't want to leave and am already planning my next visit here; it was like a year long holiday!