

2013-2014

University Attended – Arizona State University

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful? – About a week before school begins you will attend a mandatory induction/orientation day. It lasts a few hours but is really helpful, and gives you all the information you need to know about the campus and classes. It is also a great opportunity to meet people, everyone there is in the same position of you, and I made some great friends on that first day. They give you a tour around the campus and free food!

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support – the style of teaching is different than Manchester, in the sense that you don't have seminars and lectures, you just have lectures but the class sizes tend to be a lot smaller in comparison to many of the lectures in Manchester. The assessment is also a lot more frequent, you will have an exam/quiz most weeks, but the best part is that all your assessment is done before Christmas break so you have no work to do. I would recommend having classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays since this gives you long weekends to travel.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful – The MBS international team was extremely useful. They gave us a lot of information about all the different institutions which made it much easier to pick a university that best suited us. They also give you loads of information about Visa, travel, insurance etc, which is all very helpful.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided – The second year meetings were extremely informative, and we got the opportunity to meet with students who had previously attended the university we were going to, which was helpful as they gave us lots of useful information.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students – They are also really helpful and are always available if you ever have any questions, and are constantly putting on social events.

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.

Unfortunately, Arizona State University requires you to purchase their insurance, which is around \$1100 a semester.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS AND FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc. Any information that you had to provide on financial certificate would be helpful. – The only extra fee is the health insurance, which is pretty expensive, but apart from that there are not any additional costs.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended. – In terms of accommodation, I lived at the Vista Del Sol apartment complex, which I would definitely recommend. It is

incredible, it has a great pool, Jacuzzi, volleyball courts, basketball courts, tennis courts, home theatre room, gym, study centre etc. It is basically like staying at a resort. You can either get a four bed apartment, 3 bed, 2 bed or a single. Each room has there own bathroom, and then you share a kitchen and living area. I lived in a four bed apartment and loved it, I had great roommates as well. Arizona State may recommend that you should stay at Cholla apartments, but I would definitely not recommend this, they are the international halls, and are not particularly very nice. Other apartment complexes that I would recommend are the District, the Hub, and Gateway. These are all very nice and very similar to Vista del sol. The only negative about Vista Del Sol is that because it is technically “on campus”, you are not allowed to drink alcohol in the complex, but that isn’t particularly well regulated. It is also only a 5 minute walk from the business school, which is great!

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups – Arizona is in such a great location for travelling, it’s a 40 minute flight to Vegas and LA, very close to Mexico, and Colorado where there are some great ski resorts. ASU is a very social place, has a reputation as a “party school”, which I would definitely agree with! Mill Ave is the main place where everybody goes out, its like a strip of bars, just 5 minutes from campus, and is a lot of fun! There is also Scottsdale, which is about a 15 minute drive, where they have loads of clubs and bars. Socially, there is always something to do at ASU. There is also the Greek system, which is a big part of social life at ASU. I personally didn’t join a sorority as it was expensive and not really my cup of tea, but I know loads of people who are part of the Greek life and they absolutely love it, so I would definitely recommend trying it out, as its also a great way to meet people. The Greek system is also great to be apart of if you are not 21 as they host loads of parties and social events. One thing you need to be wary of is the police, if you are not 21 yet. Arizona is one of the strictest states in terms of underage drinking so just be careful! There are endless student groups you can join, and at the beginning of the semester they have a day where you can go around at look at all the different organizations and join as many as you want. These are also a great way to meet people. In terms of integration with local students, it is so easy. Americans, are generally very outgoing and forward, and will talk to anyone. I met so many people in my apartment complex, through class, through student groups etc. I really have made some incredible friends here that I will stay in touch with forever.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Could not possibly describe my year abroad in one sentence. It was easily the best year of my life, I have made some incredible memories here, met some amazing people, and seen some amazing places. I can’t believe how fast it has gone, I am going to miss this place so much! You will have an amazing time wherever you chose to go, but I would definitely recommend ASU. It NEVER rains and is constantly hot and sunny, it has a beautiful campus, and is just so much fun! I have not got a single bad word to say about Arizona State University. Truly, a life changing year that I will never forget!

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

We were emailed details of our induction before arrival, including instructions of where you needed to be and what time. Upon arrival we were given a complimentary breakfast and then guided into the Hall. However we were sent to the wrong hall with all the full time International students, so after about 20 mins of being slightly confused they announced that if there was any exchange students they should go to a different room. When we finally got to the right place we were given our induction booklets and our specific exchange induction began. It lasted about 2 hours and was very useful for information about ASU, other welcome events, and also to meet other exchange students and your specific programme advisor. I also found it very useful that ASU gave the international and exchange inductions two weeks before the other students arrived as it gave us time to get a feel for the place before classes started.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The style of teaching was similar in terms of lecturing although the classes would tend to be much smaller. Sometimes you'll be given exercises to do in class but this varies per class and is more common among smaller classes. Access to the courses was fairly simple you just need to ask your advisor for overrides for the courses you want to do. The advisor for the Business school was very helpful and very prompt with information on the courses and the overrides themselves. The biggest difference from Manchester University and ASU was the methods of assessment, it seemed to be up to the discretion of the individual course teachers. There was a lot of group work and group presentations. A lot of classes had homework and assignments due every week that contributed to your final grade. The classes I chose didn't have many exams but the ones that did were all multiple choice, with the exception Computer Information Systems classes which involved much more work for the exams. I found most teachers helpful and supportive, they had office hours and other times out of class you can go and see them.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM & MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

MBS international team were extremely supportive. I found the meetings and presentations before we went very informative and there wasn't really anything I wasn't prepared for upon arrival. They also offer help and support regarding visas and travel documents which I found extremely helpful. The preparation pack, checklist and the study abroad handbook was helpful to take with you for additional information.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The level of support was really high, they were always extremely helpful with any questions and even if it wasn't in their area they would try to find out for you, or point in the direction to someone who can.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

ASU health insurance is quite expensive, around \$1800 for two semesters, and it is not waived by the University of Manchester. As well as paying this insurance you are also charged \$10 every time you visit the health services, they also don't tell you this they just add it to your student account. Additionally you also have to pay for any prescriptions you get which can be really expensive. If they can't deal with your problem themselves or you have to go to a specialist there are also many additional charges and there is not much information or support regarding your insurance, so you don't actually know what it covers. My advice is don't get ill, as I had to pay nearly \$500 in additional health costs not covered by my insurance, mostly for antibiotics. Or if you do, seek further information about what the Health Insurance covers and possibly seek alternative insurance. *(MBS comment: it may have been possible to claim extra costs through the University of Manchester policy given to every student prior to departure).*

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS AND FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION

When you first arrive a number of costs are added to your personal student account that we were never told about or were never really explained. As well as your health insurance you have a number of costs for facilities which allows you to use their gyms and other sporting facilities which are of a very high standard. Then there were numerous costs for well being and other what seemed quite random things, in total not including health insurance it added up to around an extra \$200 per semester.

ACCOMMODATION

I stayed in Vista Del Sol which I would highly recommend, it's basically like living on a holiday resort, it has palm trees surrounding a really nice communal pool, hot tub and barbecuing area. As well as gym facilities, table tennis, pool tables and other things in the main building. The only downsides are; it's mostly run by students so it can take a while to get things done at times. It is also part of the ASU campus so technically you're not allowed any alcohol there, however this is not a massive issue and most people do, however it means it can attract a

police presence, so if you're under 21 it's quite easy to get a MIC on the complex. The other places I would recommend are; The Hub which is one of the newest accommodations, it's really nice, it even has an outdoor cinema screen around it's pool, you can also get penthouses with hot tubs installed. The two other places I would recommend are The District and 922 place. I think you have to apply separately to these places and no through ASU housing department its self. I wouldn't recommend staying in Cholla which is what ASU recommends for you as an exchange student, it's very quiet and a bit out of the way.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Take the opportunity to travel as much as you can some of my best memories are trips we made to California, Vegas, Miami, and being so close to a major hub airport is a real advantage and domestic flights tend to be not too expensive. As you will be there before most American students, we found that a lot of exchange students tended to stick together especially from the UK, Australia and New Zealand, but it is important to make American friends to get the full experience, however it's really not very hard, you'll be constantly invited to go places. Also I really enjoyed the football games, mainly for the atmosphere, and it tended to be a whole day event with tailgating beforehand. If you are under 21 it can be quite difficult at ASU, as it's a dry campus and having their own police force you are going to run into police quite frequently. But it's certainly not the end of the world, ASU has a massive social scene and there is always something going on.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Incredible, one of the best years of my Life!

FEEDBACK 3

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

This involved meeting with your coordinator at the university and meeting other international students. Lasted half a day and was useful because it got you to meet fellow study abroad students, making the start of university life easier.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Courses are easily accessed. Any help needed with regard to courses can be accessed through Erin Piper, the coordinator. In terms of teaching, the style is very similar. Methods of assessment are generally exams, group projects and presentations.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

They tell you everything you need to know.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

The information given out was all very useful and to the point. Honestly just stress how every opportunity offered should be considered!

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

The level of support was very good.

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

Health insurance was paid for online and provided by ASU to all year abroad students. It is done on the MY ASU. Takes no time, but is a bit pricey.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS AND FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc. Any information that you had to provide on financial certificate would be helpful. Books are very expensive, so figure out which ones you genuinely need for the classes. Make sure you get accommodation near to campus, due to the heat and the fact that transport isn't half as good as England.

ACCOMMODATION

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

Nearby accommodation! Don't stay in international halls because that could isolate you. Stay at The District, 922 place, University House or Vista Del Sol, in that order.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Transport isn't very good so bear that in mind. Travel as much as possible. The airport is 15 minutes away and California, Nevada, Colorado, Utah are all nearby. In terms of social life, join a club, fraternity or sports team.

That's the best thing you can do!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Best year of my life; cherish every moment.