

2012-2013

University Attended: Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

We arrived a week before school started and had a week full of orientation, this covered everything from how to behave in the classroom, to insurance, to how to write American essays. Food was provided for breakfast, and lunch was from local fastfood restaurants. We were also taken on a bus tour of the Twin Cities.

In the evening the GLOBE (international) Society organised events such as a meal, a trip to the Mall of America and other events which helped to meet the other internationals. I didn't take part in this week in January as I was still on Christmas holidays which meant it took me a lot longer to get to know the other internationals in the second semester.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

It is a very different style of teaching, smaller classes, but no seminars. You are not lectured to but instead take part in a more interactive class. Most of my classes had participation grades, so you had to join in the discussion.

I mainly had coursework and small quizzes throughout the term rather than finals at the end of the semester. I found the work a lot easier, but more constant, as a lot of classes had weekly quizzes.

I really enjoyed the lecturers as they all had lots of experience in the real world with what they were teaching.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Sue was very helpful when I was applying for Minnesota, always ready with an answer to any questions I had. MBS had a good relationship with the International team at Carlson which was brilliant. I fortunately had no issues when I was away, so didn't need to use them throughout the year.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

I liked meeting with the 4th year students that had already been to Minnesota, as well as the Minnesotan students that were currently in Manchester. One of the girls I met actually ended up picking me up from the airport when I arrived in Minnesota (there is a reason they are called 'Minnesota nice').

However, I wish we had been informed in 1st year how expensive this year turns out to be. Flights, insurance, expensive accommodation, books (they cost a fortune)!

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Fantastic international office, really helpful with choosing course etc. and always answered questions promptly when needed. They also organised the orientation week.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Unfortunately having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy doesn't matter and you still have to purchase the University of Minnesota insurance which was \$950 per semester. But this was very inclusive and there is a clinic on campus which is totally covered by your insurance.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

There was an international fee of \$145 each semester.

ACCOMMODATION

As an international student you get three options: Centennial Hall, Middlebrooke Hall or University Village (UV). Centennial and Middlebrooke are dorms that mainly have freshman in them and both require you to have a meal plan. I personally didn't like the food and struggled living with all freshman.

I spent my first semester in Centennial then moved to UV which is apartment type accommodation, with 4 in a flat. This had its own kitchen and 2 shared a bathroom (rather than the 15 I was sharing with in Centen). Most internationals lived in UV.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

I joined a sorority and would really recommend it as a great place to meet Americans and get a real American university experience. The other internationals that didn't join a sorority or fraternity mainly socialised amongst themselves and didn't have many American friends.

You can purchase a UPass for about \$95 a semester which you can use in any bus and lightrail anywhere in the 2 cities, I think it was definitely worth it, especially if you are living in UV as it's a bit further away.

Travelwise, Minneapolis is a hub but flying around America is pretty expensive, although booked in advance you can get tickets such as a return to Chicago for \$60. I also visited Las Vegas, Seattle, Florida and Atlanta via plane and drove to see North and South Dakota (Mount Rushmore) and Wisconsin.

Minnesotans are very laid back and friendly, there is a reason there is an expression of 'Minnesotan nice'!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

An unforgettable year of new experiences, adventures, friendships and fun!