

2013-2014

University Attended: Chinese University of Hong Kong

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

During the first week everyone moved into the same hostel on campus in order to get to know each other. The University was actually very well organized and during this week we had a tour of the campus and a welcome talk which explained where the canteens are, student living and how to get around Hong Kong.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

The style of teaching is different from Manchester as I found the classes to be a lot smaller. Mainly I was with around 20 students except for one of my classes where there were 50 of us. The online learning system is exactly like blackboard in Manchester and its extremely easy to access the courses and the lecture slides online at all times. The assessment methods I feel are very good, the subjects in particular that I did all included a presentation, class participation, two midterms that were spaced out during the semester. They tend to really enjoy the presentation side here, I think its because they want different cultures to interact with one another. The teaching support I felt wasn't as good as it could have been, some of the teachers are very prompt with responding to emails where as some didn't even respond.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

I feel the level of support has been great from the International team and all the information has been extremely useful.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

I feel this helped me a lot when confirming my views about how excited I was. Before the meeting I was quite nervous but the meeting really helped me understand what to expect. When meeting the student who came last year it was very beneficial as he explained about costs, transport and where we should all go to eat/socialise.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

I didn't find the host University admin office in Hong Kong very helpful, anything I needed help with they were not very polite and I feel a lot of other students would agree with me. Although one positive thing is they are prompt when responding to emails, just not very friendly face to face.

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

Luckily I had insurance already that I have through my family so this wasn't an issue I needed to sort out when arriving.

ACCOMMODATION

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

Well when I first heard the news I would be in 'International House' I was very excited as I knew it would include a lot of exchange students. All the rooms on campus are shared so I knew the room would be small. When arriving it was a lot smaller than I expected but the thing about Hong Kong is that you are hardly ever in your room, so I

soon got use to it. I think it just takes some time getting use to being in a new place. I would highly recommend everyone to stay at the international house, as there is a common room area, 12 people per flat and this is where all the parties are. We get kicked out at 11 but it's honestly the best place to live with regards to interacting with others. There is also a kitchen so for those who want to make their own food this would be very beneficial. In the flat there is 1 single room, 1 triple room and the rest are singles. Also three toilets and three showers which is good because you never have to wait.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Words can't describe how incredible this year has been, it was everything I expected and a million times better. The experience has been unbelievable and if I could stay another year I most definitely would. I advise anyone who's thinking about coming to Hong Kong to take the opportunity immediately. It's so easy to travel anywhere around Asia, I have been to Singapore, Shanghai, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. It's a completely different culture to anything I have ever seen. There is so much to do for any type of person. You can go on hikes every weekend to a different location, for food fanatics you will love it there is so much choice here, culturally there are multiple museums and art galleries and the night life is just incredible. There is always something to do and I have been here for the year and wish I had more time to do more stuff.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

'Life changing opportunity that I will never forget and always be grateful for'

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

It was a week long period known as "O Week" where we had a few lectures to attend to teach us about the university and its resources. It was very similar to how freshers week works back in Manchester. It was useful but there was a lot of form filling to do that first week which got a bit tedious, but that is the same as you get at any university. After O Week, classes started however the first week of classes was merely course introduction and you are encouraged to go to as many different classes as you can to get a taste for the different courses as you pick what courses to do.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The style of teaching generally depends on what course you are doing, but in general they consist of 3 hour lectures and no seminars. However language classes are usually 2 hours with a 1 hour seminar. Again the teaching differs from class to class, but all of the teachers were good and I cannot complain about any of them. They are very forgiving for exchange students so if you have a problem just ask, this happened most often as people wanted help catching up or dates rearranging due to travelling. There is high ease of access to courses with virtually any class open to you as an exchange student. There is a list of classes not available to exchange students and not all of the classes are in English but the vast, vast majority are. The methods of assessment for business courses focused a lot on group work, a midterm, presentations and most of the usual assessments we are used to back in the UK. However the final exam usually isn't worth as much as they are back home, usually courses are 50-50 or 60-40 coursework to final. The teaching support is good from what I saw but I didn't need to use this very often as most of my classes were just lectures and I rarely ran into difficulty.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

As always their level of support was amazing, check your emails because they are often the ones who inform you about alumni events and they are good fun.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

The second year meetings told me almost everything I wanted to know. Though I wish they would have told me how big the campus was and how annoying the hill is to climb up every day. Still it keeps you fit and there is

nothing you can do about it. You will also need to go get a Hong Kong ID card as you are staying for more than 180 days in Hong Kong.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The i-centre office was extremely helpful at CUHK, if you want anything feel free to ask them. They are always willing to help.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

I don't remember having to pay anything out for insurance, the University of Manchester policy covered everything. There is also a clinic and dentist on campus which is free to use for students. You may need to get vaccinations depending where you plan on traveling to and what you have been vaccinated with before, so go to the doctors before you leave to make sure all of your vaccinations are in order and to get new ones.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

No additional costs that CUHK charge that I remember. These all get sorted out on the first week, make sure you have some money at the start of the year to pay these. £1,000 at least for the admin fees, accommodation and other essentials to buy at the start of the year (bedding, cooking equipment, octopus card, etc.)

ACCOMMODATION

The I-houses are where most of the exchange students stayed, they are in 2 groupings: i-house 1 & 2 are on the other side of the hill away from central campus so it takes roughly 20 mins to get to classes and MTR station on average. Whereas I-houses 3 – 5 are in central campus so it is much quicker to get to classes and to the MTR station. The other hostels comprise of mainly local students and mainland Chinese students, they have a much more hostel togetherness than the i-houses, but they are more strict about noise, having friends over, parties, etc. I lived in i-house 1 so I can only talk about there with real confidence but in general the closer your hostel is to central campus the better as you don't spend as much time travelling each day. Due to having most of the other exchange students also living in the i-houses, I would recommend living in one of them.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Public transport in Hong Kong is amazing, there is no difficulty in getting to anywhere in Hong Kong thanks to the amazing MTR, buses and cheap taxis. Get an octopus card to pay for travel and shopping at some participating retailers. You can get a student octopus card which gives you discounted travel too. A local bank account is also desirable depending on how much money your bank charges for overseas usage. Do go traveling around Asia as much as you can, for the most part you can find someone who wants to visit the same places as you and it can be very affordable if you plan it right. The social life for the average exchange student involves mainly hanging out with other exchange students, the integration with local students does not happen lots as often the exchange students want to travel and party whereas local students don't generally party as much as they have less free time and they are not pass-fail students like us. But there are some who make an effort to hang out with the exchange students and they are generally some of the nicest people you will ever meet. CUHK have many student activity groups and you often see the societies performing "stomp the yard"-esque performances, however due to many of their events being done in Cantonese they are not easily accessible to exchange students unless it is one of the societies which use mainly English. For the most part I spent time with other exchange students from places all over the world and we went on many trips to other parts of Asia together. Though don't forget to do lots in Hong Kong too, many hikes, sights, food and culture to take in.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A fantastic year that I will never forget.