

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM – 2007/2008

Programme: IMABS

University Attended: HEC Montréal

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The introduction programme lasted for one week. I found it to be very useful; it involved a guided tour of the city which helped to get your bearings in the city, a tour of the school, presentations explaining how to conduct the administrative work that needed to be completed. Basically I had no problems when I arrived and I'm sure that was down to a well conducted orientation programme.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

It's a very different style of teaching than you get in Manchester, it's a lot more interactive, the class sizes are a lot smaller and participation is encouraged, even to the point that in some classes participation counts 10% of your final grade. They place a lot of emphasis on group work; I had a group project in every class I took at HEC. I found this aspect interesting because the projects were mostly conducted on real companies rather than on fake cases which made the learning style very practical and hands on. The lecturers also expect you to do a lot of reading before each week's class. I definitely found the teaching style definitely created a more stimulating learning environment. However it did mean that the workload was very heavy, with group projects in every class that last throughout the semester, all the expected readings, mid-term exams and then final exams it meant you had to really manage your time well to try and get it all done and to a good standard. What I found difficult is that the deadlines for group projects were often only a few days before the exam in that course, so you were trying to complete a big project whilst also trying to study for your exam. Due to HEC being a French school I found that I didn't have a huge selection of English courses to choose from, this meant that I had to take a few courses that normally I would have no interest in taking if I was in Manchester. This wasn't a massive problem because I did have some choice but it definitely meant that I had to take some courses here that I really did not find interesting. In terms of access to the courses, places were limited but as long as you signed up for the course quickly you had no problems. The online system you have to use was very simple to use, it was in French but once you get used to that it was very accessible.

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

I didn't really use the international office that much whilst I was here so I can't really comment a lot here, but the few times that I did I found the level of support to be excellent. When I sent an email the response was always the next day which was helpful.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

I found them to be useful because it gave you an idea of what to expect from the year away and from the university you are going to. They also gave me the information for everything I needed to do before I left for Montreal

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

They were really helpful, always ready to answer any queries that you have. Like with the MBS international office I didn't really use it that often but when I did they sorted out any problems.

ACCOMMODATION

I used a company called GIA Gestion for my accommodation; this is the company that is recommended by HEC Montreal. I found them to be really easy to use, and they also take away the hassle of trying to find accommodation once you arrive in Montreal, if you go with GIA then you are guaranteed a house when you arrive. I got a really nice apartment that's close to the University; I live with 4 other exchange students so it's good fun. I would definitely recommend future students to go with this company.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Montreal is a fantastic city to live in; I had a brilliant time this year. It's a very vibrant city, a lot of bars and restaurants and a really good music scene. It's also a very accessible city, the public transport is very good with both the metro system which is linked very well with the buses.

It's also a good base for travelling, you have Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto that are all very close in Canada and then New York and Boston are both relatively short bus rides away in the US. My advice for anyone coming here is to definitely make the most of it in terms of the opportunity to travel.

Mostly I socialise with the other exchange students here but I do have a few Quebecois friends. In terms of student activity groups there really non-existent at HEC, they don't have any sports teams that you can join and no other type of groups exist that you can join.

The exchange society is really good though, they organise a lot of nights out and trips. There especially good at the start of the year, they make a lot of effort to try and make sure that you get to know all the exchange students and the city.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A brilliant year in a fantastic city. One of the best experiences of my life.