

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 2008-2009

Programme International Management

University Attended Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

Each exchange student is allocated a local 'buddy' from the HKUST business school. The buddy is there to assist students with any questions they may have prior to or after arrival. It is also possible to arrange with your buddy an airport pick up which will take you back to campus.

There are two orientation days, one of which is compulsory, both held during the weekend before classes start. The compulsory one is useful as Wendy, the exchange co-ordinator runs through how to add/drop courses and gives out student ID cards etc. It lasts around half a day and at the end students can pre pay for yearbooks and the end of semester leavers' dinner.

The second program is voluntary and lasts a day. Here each student is introduced to their buddy (if you haven't already done so) and buses are arranged to take everyone on a tour of Stanley market and Victoria Peak. It's definitely worth doing as it's a good opportunity to meet all the other exchange students and to see two of the most famous tourist attractions in HK.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

The style and particularly the grading of the courses at HKUST are very different to those at Manchester and will take a bit of getting used to. Classes are far smaller, where attendance is mandatory (can miss up to 5 before failing) and student's class participation counts towards their final course grade. Furthermore grading is done using a curve whereby students' grades are dependent upon how others in the class achieved.

However, the courses available at UST are on the whole well taught and more diverse than those offered at Manchester. Unless very competent with finance and accounting I would advise staying clear of these courses as due to the grading system it is often difficult to score high. I would highly recommend taking negotiation, judgment and decision making, ethics and some of the corporate strategy courses as they are

interesting and useful with a different emphasis to any similar subjects I have done previously.

Despite what course you take, most, if not all include group projects and group/individual presentations. Here often exchange students are mixed with local students to give balance to the work and an opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds. Although frustrating in some cases, this requirement is a better way to integrate the class which I found to be rewarding.

Although there is a lot of talk about the grading system increasing the chance of failing courses, in reality if you attend the majority of classes, participate in class discussion and prepare for the midterm and final exam then it is difficult to fail.

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The MBS office was good in providing useful emails and information on what needs to be done before starting back up at Manchester.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that could have been useful

Again these are meetings I recommend attending as these feedback forms leave out a lot of useful information. It's a chance to meet and ask questions to the students who have been to each location and provided the basis upon which I made my final decision.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

Very useful for any queries you may have. Wendy, the exchange co-coordinator is easily available and approachable and in many circumstances went out of her way to help me with various things.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation was for me the biggest shock. All on campus accommodation is shared. Exchange students are allocated to a two-person room, whilst local students share with up to five others in a same sized room! The rooms although small do comfortably accommodate two people. However on the up side the views from the halls and campus are staggering, many overlook the sea, countless islands and the outdoor swimming pool.

The halls are all pretty similar in their amenities and so there is no real preference. Although hall 4 is known for being the noisy hall, unfortunately not with regards to partying but with Chinese staying up all night playing video games and building promotions for the various clubs they are involved in. Hall 6 on the other hand is the newest hall with slightly larger rooms and a sink.

But once you have seen and understood what the majority of the nation lives in you begin to feel very privileged.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Hong Kong is without doubt an incredible place. It is by far one of the most vibrant cities I have visited and is a place that never sleeps. It is impossible to be disappointed about what HK has to offer. Aside from its breathtaking skyline and countless roof top bars and restaurants, much of the beauty lies in the country side surrounding Kowloon. There are great trails for hiking, un-touched beaches and over 300 little islands to explore!

Evidently HK's proximity to other Asian countries means it's an ideal place to travel from. Whether you choose to visit mainland China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia or Laos the choices are endless and the prices are usually pretty reasonable.

Transport in HK is perfect. It's cheap, reliable and runs all night. Also unlike mainland China, most the locals speak some English and so getting around is fine.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A truly unforgettable, character changing experience that generated friendships and memories which will stay with me throughout my lifetime.