

**2012-2013**

**University Attended: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**

## **FEEDBACK 1**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

We had an orientation day that you could sign up for before. I would definitely go on this as it is where you meet the most people. You get to see Hong Kong and get lunch but it's definitely best for making friends. Also as 95% of exchanges are here for one semester only try and go on the same day in January as again it's the best way to meet people.

We also had big meetings where you get your info packs and stuff but all this is compulsory attendance and again you get a better idea of people's faces so it's definitely good to go!

You also can sign up for a buddy which I would do and they come along to the orientation day with you etc.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

Put simply it's totally different. Because you are graded on a curve its very competitive, but their general learning style is learn everything from the book/lecture notes and be able to write that down word perfect in exams. From what I have heard don't choose the maths/financial/eco course unless you are willing to compete with the local students (who even if they aren't better than you, will work harder).

There are usually a lot more smaller assessments (mid-terms/presentations/projects and exams) and they love multiple choice here. The only down side is the locals will honestly memorise things and so their average comes out stupidly high even though we'd maybe look at multiple choice as easy.

It totally depends what courses you go for, but if you keep on top of things it usually isn't too bad but you do need to work and don't be surprised if everyone is in the library 24/7 in the run up to exams/presentation weeks

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Couldn't have asked for more

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

The meeting with the people who have been before are invaluable so make an effort to go to that meeting. They do the best they can and offer good advice but obviously the students know first-hand so can offer the best advice/information.

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

We have Wendy here, whose full time job seems to be emailing back our queries as she is our first port of call out here. She is fabulous and would do anything for us. As good as the Manchester Team.

## **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

Well this 'compulsory' insurance we paid around £400 was pointless – Well when I needed insurance I used the Manchester one which was absolutely amazing. However I have been fortunate enough not to need medical assistance or my body remains being flown home which is where I think the compulsory cover beats the Manchester cover and that isn't something you want to skimp on so look into it thoroughly. And I know people who just didn't get it and I don't think Wendy really cares it was more my Mum who wouldn't let me come out here without full coverage.

## **INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS**

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

Accommodation is about 1100 a YEAR so is stupidly cheap.

Transport is cheap so a non-concern.

Books are the same price as Manchester but also the same in terms of you rarely really NEED it; try getting it from the library or borrowing etc. because you'll only have to get rid of it at the end of the year.

Visa: I can't remember being expensive and they fed-ex it to you for you to stick in your passport – Wendy sorts it all so it's very simple.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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

Halls are rated 1-9 1 being the worst. I am in it and I love it. All rooms are shared the only difference is in hall 7 and upwards instead of a communal bathroom you will share a private one between four. It is undoubtedly nicer but honestly anything is fine. You cannot share a room with an exchange in halls 7 and above so bear that in mind if you want to share with someone you know/another exchange. However I share a room with a local now and she is never here so I have a single room essentially which is amazing. I would honestly just be grateful for what you get because only 30% of locals even get offered accommodation and when you get to HK you'll realise even though it's small for our standards, it's bigger than most people's home bedroom by a lot.

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

The UST campus is about 40 minutes away from central, but the MTR is a great system so it's not an issue. I'd rather be a bit out of it than in the constant busy central HK. We're by the sea. It's so beautiful and a bit of calm in the storm. There are so many exchanges you only really integrate with locals in class as a lot of them don't go out or socialise much. Societies are mental here but again it's such a commitment that usually only locals take part. There are sports teams and stuff you can easily get involved in as it's pretty chilled so it's up to you how much you participate or not.

## **DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

**Hong Kong is honestly one of the best, most vibrant cities in the world, it's been my home for a year, enabled me to travel and make some of the best friends someone could want - it's given me the best year of my life. Hands down.**

## FEEDBACK 2

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### INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

I arrived a few days before orientation. There were two days of orientation I think: a cultural day tour (just for exchange students), and then a meet your buddy day where exchange students and their buddies go and do activities. Also there was a general introduction meeting for business exchange students to get your information for the year, and info on courses etc.

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

I was lucky and got all the courses that I applied for, but some people didn't. Although it wasn't really an issue as they just changed to other similar courses. Teaching style/assessment style is VERY different to Manchester. Environment is very competitive with locals and mainland Chinese students, and exams are geared up to write learning a lot of the material, which is easy for locals as they spend a lot of time studying. However, lots of discussion based courses contain mainly exchange students anyway. Grading is done on a curve so if the average is 70% then that's a B, and above will be A, and below C/D etc. As long as you put in a decent amount of work then none of the classes are that difficult. I would however advise against any econ/finance classes unless you are naturally good at them, because class average for my econ class was 90% and I struggled a bit with that.

### MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Absolutely nothing! Great support, particularly from Sue! Very efficient at answering everything via email.

### MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Can't really remember that far back!! But don't remember thinking 'I wish they'd told me that' at any point throughout the year!!

### HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

Wendy at HKUST and her assistant Olive were fantastic too. Couldn't have asked for anything more. Always there to help and very efficient at responding to queries.

### 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

HKUST require you to purchase additional health cover costing around £500 for the year I think, unless you have a suitable policy that matches everything. Used University of Manchester Insurance for both health care, and my stolen iphone & camera and they were absolutely fantastic and very understanding and efficient.

### INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

I honestly can't remember if I had to pay for my VISA or not. If I did, it definitely wasn't very much. No extra costs that came as a shock. Books are very cheap, and I shared with coursemates. Transport is really cheap, get a

student octopus card and then its half price so even cheaper. Accommodation is all on campus and very heavily subsidised which is great. A lot cheaper than I was paying in Manchester, almost a quarter of the price I think!

### **ACCOMMODATION**

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended. Halls start from hall 1 and go to brand new halls 8 & 9. Would not recommend hall 1,2,3 or 5 as they are the oldest. Hall 5 is bunk beds too. Halls 4 & 6 were very sociable the year I was there, in fact hall 6 had an exchange floor which was great. But obviously this depends on the intake and how HKUST allocate rooms. Halls 7,8 & 9 are all new and en suite but a little more money I think. I was in hall 1 and moved to hall 9, which was fantastic. Great sea view and brand new.

### **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

Hong Kong is honestly the best place on earth. I wouldn't have changed anything from last year whatsoever. Great social life as everyone lives together on campus, and the nightlife is AMAZING, with girls drinking for free on Wednesdays and Thursdays every week.

Great location to travel to Asia – I went away for a weekend to Shanghai/Philippines/Taiwan, and more at least once a month. Long break over Christmas to travel, as well as Chinese New Year holiday and a week for Easter. Sports teams were awful standard, and not even worth joining. I played football for first semester, ended up coaching as the standard was awful. Other clubs seem pretty full of locals, who are hard to integrate with. However I did have a few very good local friends, but most of them had studied in Europe so were much more outgoing and willing to integrate. Transport system is fantastic – subway takes you everywhere.

### **DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

**Nothing will ever beat this year, without a doubt the best 12 months of my life, with the most incredible people you could ever meet, and I would re-live it 1000 times if I could!!**