

2012-2013

University Attended: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

## FEEDBACK 1

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### INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

Tour around campus and several events with BIEN to meet other exchange students.

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Teaching was amazing, with a wide variety of classes to choose from and all of them had amazing lecturers.

Enjoyed almost all of my classes. The classes are very interactive, especially compared to Manchester classes which I really enjoyed. There is also a lot of group work and presentations, and despite this being slightly intimidating initially it has hugely improved my presentation skills and confidence in my classes. The grade is also built up on lots of different tests and assignments which means that exams are not as overwhelming as in Manchester and you can work to improve your grade if you do poorly elsewhere.

### MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Was well informed.

### HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

I would have liked more support during the first few weeks on campus since the international office in Illinois was so busy and hard to contact so it was hard figuring things out initially.

### 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*

Was waived by the Manchester policy and the McKinley Health Centre is very good and fast to book appointments.

### 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.*

None.

### ACCOMMODATION

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

Many exchange students here join sororities/fraternities and then move into the houses because it is much nicer and cheaper. The housing accommodation is quite expensive and the halls are old, but all are being rebuilt year by year. The six pack location is definitely one I would recommend because of location and interaction with lots of different halls. It is best to stay in halls rather than seek out an apartment, because it's an easy way to meet people and has a good meal plan so you don't have to worry. PAR/FAR/LAR are halls that are further away from the main parts of campus, so I wouldn't recommend those however a lot of exchange students do choose these halls so if you are looking to meet other exchange students more so than local ones, these are the better option.

### DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Illinois has more greek life than anywhere else so the social side and ability to meet so many local students was incredible. Illinois wasn't my first choice when choosing preferences in second year, however I cannot imagine having gone anywhere else and wouldn't have wanted to. It's the typical college experience being

based on a huge campus that is full of sororities and fraternities. It's the most authentic 'all American' year abroad you can get.

The group BIEN that was run by business students for exchange students was very good and they arranged lots of events throughout both semesters. I did not attend many of these as the year went by because I joined a sorority which has lots of events of its own. However, all of the exchange students that did not join a house absolutely loved BIEN and events were occurring on a weekly basis and always fun.

The school is based three hours from Chicago and buses are very regular back into the city. It is also a couple of hours from St Louis and Indianapolis. Despite initially thinking the campus was very isolated and too far from Chicago, I saw how much stuff there is to do on campus and events occurring non stop, so I haven't felt much need to travel out of Champaign as I thought I would.

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

**The best year of my life without a doubt and was the true American college experience with the huge sorority and frat life making it incredible.**

### **FEEDBACK 2**

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#### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

Only one day of mandatory meetings was required and this was relatively informative. They told us about different activities happening on campus that we may want to get involved in to learn more about U of I.

#### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

The style of teaching is quite different from what I had previously experienced in Manchester. All but one of my classes in Illinois over the course of the year were modules taught in a class room environment more similar to that of seminars back home. This seems to be the most popular way of teaching at the business school. The assessment was also very different as all exams were multiple choice making them much easier to revise for and also to easier to achieve good marks in. Presentations were a large part of the assessment with at least two presentations happening in each subject per semester. Group work was required in all subjects both in the form of presentations and essays. Teaching support was largely available through professor office hours during the week, email and also TA support.

#### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

I didn't require much additional support but when I did email MBS I always received timely responses.

#### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

More information about the host institution regarding all the additional fees would have been more beneficial.

#### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

The international office was relatively efficient in replying to emails etc and they were very helpful when it came to changing modules and any additional information needed.

#### **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

Insurance costs were waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy however a mandatory health service fee was required of over \$200 regardless of this. Also they like to give you unnecessary injections during the first week which cost from \$50 +.

### **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.

Students should be aware that the University closes all its dorms during the holiday periods meaning you cannot stay in your room during spring break, winter break and Thanksgiving. If you do not make plans to go traveling during these times then you will be required to move into a dorm room in either PAR or ISR and pay at least \$25 a night. This is highly irritating since you are already paying a very large amount for your own room in the first place. Also international students are required to arrive on campus before the 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to attend the orientation and they will charge you again \$25-30 per night to stay in your bedroom until the term officially starts.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

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

I stayed in university dorms during my year in Illinois and did enjoy this experience on the whole as I made friends with some nice and very fun people. However, most of the dorms are very out dated and I did get a shock at how basic and depressing they looked on my arrival. Not to mention that I changed rooms due to a cockroach problem and the fact it was filthy. The rooms therefore do seem ridiculously overpriced for the overall poor standard. Air-con is an additional extra however it only works for the first half of the first semester until the weather gets cooler even though you may want it throughout your entire stay (which you pay for). The older dorms are those in the six pack and also PAR and FAR however a brand new dorm called Nugent opened when we arrived and another new dorm was in the process of being constructed which will probably be open to students in time for the next academic year.

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

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

Transport is pretty good with the local bus service being free to students after an initial fee which is included in your housing bill. This bus service takes you round campus making it easy to get to far away classes, trips to the Mall and downtown Champaign and also takes you to the bus station where you can get Mega buses and Greyhounds to cities across America and nearby Chicago. There are plenty of ways to meet the American students, you can go to Quad day at the beginning of term and sign up for a vast array of clubs (there really is something for everyone) or you can choose to join the Greek system and rush a sorority or fraternity. You may also want to just meet people through your classes and through the BIEN network.

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

**Amazing experience, made friends for life and was able to travel round America and have tons of fun!!**