

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 2008-2009

Programme IMABS

University Attended University of Western Ontario

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

The first semester orientation was much better than second but it was for all new students to the business school, not just exchange students therefore a lot of the people I spent the week with I did not see again, as they were in the year below. We had tours around the campus and business schools, did some team building activities and had some nights out. The major benefit was that I got to know my "Buddy" who I was assigned as a mentor figure and some of the other people in my year who were also partaking in the buddy scheme.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The teaching style at Ivey was one of the biggest cultural differences I experience on exchange.

We were marked on how much we contributed in class, which at first was hard to get my head around but I soon felt comfortable and got involved in the class discussions as I realised it was something everyone was doing. I feel that as a result I am more confident to talk about what I have learned during my time at MBS and at Ivey.

Professors at Ivey seemed to have much closer relationships with their students than lecturers at MBS, mainly owing to the smaller class sizes. This was beneficial as most Professors knew every student in the class name and this made them more approachable.

On the whole there were more assignments than a typical MBS module but they were much shorter. I think the longest piece I wrote was 2000 words in a group of 3 people. As a result it was easier to manage my work load and there was less pressure on each individual piece of work. Most classes required at least one piece of group work.

Ivey have more pride than Manchester Business School: you are constantly reminded that Ivey is one of the best business schools in Canada. Consequently, I found some of my peers a bit shallow, compared to my peers at Manchester: some were easily impressed by money and their key goal was to graduate into either have a high-powered or high paid job, as they defined this as success. Having said this, the majority of the students were down to earth.

The best thing about Ivey was that we had no classes on a Fridays so travelling at the weekend was worthwhile!

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

MBS International Office was extremely useful both before and during exchange. Emails were always answered within 24 hours and no request was too much trouble.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

I feel the content in the second year meetings was useful.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Amanda Grey at the host International Office was extremely helpful, approachable and was available most days 8am to 4pm at the International Office. It was possible to develop a good relationship with her as she attended some International Students social events in the first semester.

ACCOMMODATION

In the first Semester I found a house through Marilyn, who is an affiliate to UWO. For \$100 she checked over the house, sorted everything and even picked me up from a hotel on the first day. The house was nice but a long way from campus and I was living with some non-students so I am glad that I only signed the lease for the first semester. In the second semester was able to move in with a friend, in a location I preferred. I would recommend this, even if you do not find a friend to move in with as by the second semester you will have access to the UWO housing website and will have knowledge of the area and know where you would prefer to live. Also it is a great way to meet more people!

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

London has a reasonable bus service, you can get to campus, town centre and the malls with ease but the buses are not as frequent as in Manchester. The main (and only) strip of bars could be compared to Fallowfield, in that it is mainly aimed at students and has probably the same number of bars/clubs. As a result the social life is very different to Manchester: you are guaranteed to bump into people you know when you go out as everyone goes to the same place each week, e.g. Its Jacks on Monday, Frog on Thursday, Taphouse on Friday etc. Toronto is only 2 hours away and is well worth visiting for a weekend to experience night life more like Manchester.

Integrating with local students seemed to be easier in the first semester as there were only 15 international students at Ivey, whereas in the second semester there were 60 and we all tended to stick together a bit more. Also, the Ivey students who were most open to mixing with the international students tended to be those who were going on exchange themselves in the second semester. I feel like I had a better social experience in the second semester as there were more international students who were more willing to go away for the weekends and socialise most evenings, etc. However the local friends I made in the first semester, who stuck have become very good friends.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The best year of my life.