

**2012-2013**

**University Attended:** Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario

## **FEEDBACK 1**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

We had a class on the first day where we met the other exchange students and the exchange co-ordinators. Taught us about Canadian life etc. I felt it was geared to the other exchange students more who were from places like China etc.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

The style of teaching here is incredible. You are in a small class of 20-70 people, quite similar to MBS seminars. The style of learning is modelled after Harvard Business School and it is very effective. The amount of knowledge I have picked up here is genuinely life-changing. The majority of the work you will do are group projects which often end in a presentation. There are very few exams. I only had one the whole year. The range of course options are amazing. There are options for hard business skills and well as soft business skills such as negotiations and presenting. I highly recommend Advanced Presentation Skills. It's most amazing course I have ever taken and the professor is an incredible guy. The lessons are based around contribution. The professor takes a back seat and lets the student discuss a lot of points. Class contributions are worth up to 40% of your grade. It's daunting at first but you soon get used to it. Also, all classes are mandatory, and if you miss more than 5 for a course it will harm your grade severely. Overall, it's a dramatically more effective method of teaching compared to sitting in a lecture hall of 200+ people. I was worried about the level of difficulty when I first came here as you have to do 4<sup>th</sup> year courses but it worked out well. 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Ivey is really intense but by 4<sup>th</sup> year a huge number of people already have jobs lined up so it is a lot more relaxed. I wouldn't necessarily say that it is any harder than MBS, it's just that all your classmates are incredibly smart due to the entrance requirements. This is great as you really do learn a lot from them and they are all very motivated which is infectious.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

I never really required their help so I can't comment. In terms of information, I feel that everything was focused a lot on going to the USA. My only complaint is that the mandatory course that you had to do in 2<sup>nd</sup> year not once mentioned Canada. I find this strange considering a lot of IMABS students will be going to a Canadian institution.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Perhaps there could have been more information on the cost of living. I was shocked by how expensive food etc here is compared to home. Alcohol is really expensive here too and it a bit of a chore to get in Ontario due to the strict liquor licensing.

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

All in all they were very supportive. The staff knew my name and remembered it throughout the year with I thought was a nice touch.

### **INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER**

Had to buy university insurance which was in the range of \$400. This doesn't cover things such as antibiotics though which can be expensive. I had to buy a small tube of cream which set me back \$55.

### **INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Mandatory to buy casebooks for each course which the university sells. The cost for these can rack up. I had to pay \$550 for mine which was one of the cheapest. Some people were paying that per semester.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Initially I really wanted to get into the residences. However it is unlikely that you will get in. I am very relieved that I did not get in as the prices are astronomical and everyone is really young. There are many people there who are only 17. I found a house on a website similar to Gumtree called Kijiji. There were many houses available. The university also has its own website which advertises all the listings. I lived in a place called Huron Street which worked out great as Class was a 5 min walk away. I would recommend living around there or as close to Richmond Street as possible. Housing prices are similar to Manchester. It's going to cost around \$400-550 per month. I would recommend getting a house with bills included as these can really mount up due to having to have the heating on all the time etc.

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

London is well situated for travel in Canada and the US. It's less than 2 hours from Toronto. The social life here is a bit different from Manchester. The university has a gotten a lot of attention in North America as a 'party school', and I would agree with that to an extent. It definitely does seem to be a lot more lively than other Canadian universities. Unlike Manchester, there isn't really a big club scene. The places you will go will be more like bars but with a dance floor. It's a nice change of pace from the craziness of Manchester and it's a lot more relaxed. This is similar to a lot of college towns in North America. I was fully integrated with the local students in my time here, perhaps more so than the other exchange students. This had always been my goal for coming on exchange and I really did put myself out there by talking to everyone and not living with other exchange students. It is very easy to just hang about with other exchange people but in my opinion that is not really the full experience. Overall, by coming here you really do get the best of both worlds. The University in general is known as a crazy party school, but the business school is one of the best in the world. It really does tick all the boxes both academically and socially. Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

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

**Amazing experience which really developed me as a person.**