

2013-2014

University attended: University of Melbourne

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The introductory program was brief and lasted around 3 days. It involved a few lectures informing us about the university, Melbourne itself, housing and getting work. There were also sports and society fairs that allowed you to join these. The information given was useful and provided everything we needed to know. The university also offers an orientation week prior to this which is expensive, costing around 500\$. This involves living in the university colleges for a week with other international students, where they show you around Melbourne. I did not take part in this, although apparently it was fun and a good way to meet people, but probably not worth the money.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

At Melbourne you have to do 4 subjects a semester, each usually with a 2 hour lecture and a 1 hour tutorial. This is similar to Manchester where there is a large number of students in the lectures, then smaller groups in tutorials where you go into more detail. The lectures are recorded which is useful if you miss one or for revision. Most tutorials have a mark for participation so it is quite important to prepare the work prior to attending. There will usually be a couple of assignments throughout the semester, with exams only being work around 50% of the total mark for the subject, this is useful as there is less pressure in exam periods. There is a large selection of courses which are easy to apply for, but you have to be quick to choose as tutorials can fill up quickly. The teaching support is very good, with the commerce student centre dealing with any issues that arise.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

MBS International team are brilliant, and will help with any problems or queries. Although I did not have to utilise the support much, I know that they have been extremely helpful for other people on the course.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

The second year meetings were extremely useful and gave a lot of information. With Australia differing in terms of healthcare and visas, lots of information was provided on these. There was nothing that we needed to know that wasn't told to us in these meetings.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Melbourne are extremely helpful with any issues or problems that you may face, they are willing to help and will ensure all issues are sorted. They can also be helpful with applying for extensions on assignments if you face any issues.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Health cover is compulsory and must be purchased before coming over to the university, it was around \$600. This is completed and paid for in the application process, making it very simple to purchase. The Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) will cover most things, including doctor's appointments. Manchester's health insurance I believe will cover everything that this doesn't.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

There were no additional fees.

ACCOMMODATION

There are three main types of accommodation: colleges, RMIT village and house sharing.

Colleges are the university's on-campus accommodation. These are very expensive at round 500\$ a week, but you get all your meals provided. You have to apply for these before coming to Australia and can be competitive to get into. Living here will allow you to make friends with loads of Australian students and is apparently really fun, with events happening all of the time.

RMIT village is the second option, which is very similar to halls. You share a room with another person, but it is divided by a partition wall. You also share the bathroom and kitchen with this person. If you have a friend you would like to share with, you can request this. RMIT village is in a really good location, and even has a swimming pool. It's a great place to meet people, and you are basically given friends as soon as you arrive. This costs around 300\$ a week.

The third option is finding a share house when you arrive. Gumtree is a brilliant website where people advertise their spare rooms, which you can then go and see by appointment. This is the cheapest option, costing anywhere between 150 and 250\$ a week. It can be difficult to find the right house with good people, and you will see a lot of bad houses before finding the right one.

I lived in two different share houses, one each semester. However, I would recommend living in RMIT village for the first semester as this is the best way to meet new people. I would then recommend moving out for the second semester, either with friends or into a new share house as this is cheaper and offers more freedom.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Melbourne is an amazing city to live and study in. It has great nightlife, great food, and a great atmosphere. There is a great social life here, with many cool bars and night clubs. The transport is the best in Australia with trams easily getting you around the city. I recommend getting a concession card as this will entitle you to half price tram/train journeys. It can be hard to integrate with local students, as most of the students in your classes will be in their second semester of their 3rd year, so are unlikely to be looking for new friends. However, you will meet loads of international students, and local students through your accommodation. There are many societies that you can join which allow you to meet loads of people and go on trips. The surf society and MUSEX are two that I would recommend. Australia allows many travel opportunities, around Australia, New Zealand and has easy access to Asia. The overall experience in Melbourne is amazing!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Amazing city, amazing people, amazing memories; this has been the best year of my life.

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Within the induction programme we had an introductory lecture just telling us bits about Melbourne as a place and the university. It was all pretty standard, nothing particularly useful. We picked our modules, went to a society fair and that was about it! Orientation lasted 3 days and had optional tutorials you could go to (I did not take them up on this). All the information needed was provided. They did offer a welcome week prior to this but it was \$500, I have heard it was quite fun but maybe not worth the money

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The teaching style here consists of mostly 2 hour lectures and 1 hour tutorials per subject per week. The style of teaching was similar to Manchester, information on slides and spoken. The lectures are recorded here which is particularly helpful when it comes to revision. There is less content on the lecture slides and more spoken so it is quite important that the lectures are recorded. The courses were easy to apply for and there was a large choice. It is quite important to do your choices early as the classes fill up very quickly. I wanted to do a subject in first semester but it was full by the time I changed my mind. The methods of assessment here are much less weighted on the final exam. I found that I had a lot of assignments throughout the term and the exams were worth around 50%, the most heavily weighted I did was 60% which was very different to Manchester where the exams were worth 80-100%. Tutorials are marked not just on attendance but participation so it is important to do the readings and prepare for the tutorials more so than at Manchester. The teaching support here is really good. I ran into a few issues and spoke with the student commerce centre. They constantly had ways of helping me (albeit I

asked for help too late). They are particularly concerned about making sure you can cope with what you are doing. If there were any problems they were more than happy to help and provide solutions.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Very helpful.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

I felt that Australia in particular was covered in depth probably due to the fact it was the most different in the form of healthcare etc. I never felt there was anything I needed to know that I didn't, although if there was I think I asked at the time. The only difficulty with preparing was Student Finance said something different about the travel grant every time we spoke to them; however I am currently under the impression that if you receive a student loan whether or not you are income assessed, you are eligible for the grant. I think for students knowing this information will show that Melbourne is more financially viable than they think. I think the importance of workload is a big thing and maybe should be stressed more that Melbourne is not an easy university to go to however it has prepared me enormously for the mountain of work I'll face next year!

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Melbourne has helped me so much. I had huge issues with housing and also suffered medically at times. With regards to any issues I had, they put me in touch with the right people. They constantly emailed me after to see how I was getting on and genuinely went out of their way to help. I didn't realise there was so much help on offer to me, and I wish that I did before I went.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

The health cover you must purchase before you come out here. It was \$605 (Australian). However this can be reimbursed from Student Finance. It was also very easy to apply for the healthcare because it was part of the Melbourne application process and they deal with payment. I then received a receipt of payment and that was it. Melbourne University has a university doctor's surgery and so with an OSHC you do not need to pay. I found that if the OSHC did not cover something, it was most likely that Manchester Insurance would.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

The only thing I paid was to join clubs and societies, the gym which was (\$28 a fortnight) and for prescriptions.

ACCOMMODATION

I would honestly say within the university it is difficult to make friends in your classes. The people you are in lectures with have been there for 2 years, or in my case it was their final semester of their final year. I would recommend if students can afford it is to stay in RMIT for the first semester. I had some friends in there and although everyone leaves after the semester and says it's expensive for what it is, you meet so many people and have the opportunity to form friendships from the very beginning. I would then say to move out into your own house because it is better and you have more freedom and often cheaper. It is better to get yourself settled and make friends than to be worrying about your accommodation. I also found that when I first arrived I didn't really know where each suburb was so it was difficult to look for a house when I didn't really know where they were or what was a fun area.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Melbourne as a city is the best city in the world. It has so much to offer and you can walk from one side to the other. There are so many cool suburbs with really good shops, cafes and nightlife. Melbourne offers a lot of cafes and a lot bars. It is a very easy place to navigate your way around, I remember looking back to before I went and being shown a map of Melbourne, it is exactly how it is described. It is basically a grid so it's difficult to get lost. You can get on a tram and you'll never be on it for longer than 15 minutes. You will never be bored in Melbourne and the people are really nice and helpful. I personally didn't integrate with many local students, only those I met through societies, never from my classes. I had acquaintances but very few I would call for a chat. The clubs and societies is where I found my friends. There is a MUSEX (Melbourne uni student exchange) which gathers people together at the beginning of every semester and holds events throughout which is where a lot of people make their friends. I personally joined a few more societies especially the surf club where I made a lot of friends as well.

Australia as a country has so much to offer, flights are relatively cheap domestically and with over 3 months in their summer to travel, you will have enough time to experience it. After getting used to long distances, within 10 hours flight time you can get almost anywhere. That may sound like a long time but the flight to Australia is 24 so it's not too bad in comparison!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The most challenging and rewarding year of my life, I don't want to come home.

FEEDBACK 3

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

The orientation was useful in the sense, it allowed students to gain an idea of where everything is and allows you the option to join societies. However, I don't think it's entirely necessary. I didn't meet many student during the orientation as I found there were not many socials available. Furthermore, the societies that were available weren't even at the stalls at the time, and so were limited.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

I was very impressed by the academic experience. By far, I feel the academic experience has given me new light, inspiration and hunger to learn more. I feel I have become more interested in my academic learning since I have come to Melbourne. It may be due to the fact that I find the courses I chose this year were much more interesting or the tutorials were just more engaging. Nevertheless, I enjoyed getting really involved in my lessons and participating in deep discussions, which I felt I never did before.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The level of support was great. I have never felt troubled, and applications for different universities were not difficult.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

All the information I needed was provided. I cannot think of anything else I feel is hugely necessary.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

The help I have been given in Melbourne University has also been very helpful.

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

I have been to the doctors many times in Melbourne and had always felt comfortable here. I haven't had any problems and the help given by the health services is excellent. They even remember my name.

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.

Make sure you enrol on time, because I got charged \$100 for it, which is ridiculous. I hope they actually do something useful with that money.

ACCOMMODATION

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

Melbourne is an expensive city. Be prepared to work otherwise you will be short of money. I found it is relatively easy to find a job. Look on Gumtree for jobs and houses. Alternatively, rent a house with a few people (in second semester), otherwise cheap accommodation can be found but will most likely not be with other students. I enjoyed being out of the student vibe for a bit, so living with professionals can be a positive experience.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

The social life isn't as good as Manchester, so you may feel you have to try harder to make friends. It's always good to have at least one person you know in Melbourne too. I feel the integration with Australian people isn't as good as it can be. This is mainly because most of the Australians live at home with their parents and some live quite far away. So you might find you have most friends who are on exchange too.

Transport is relatively useful here, and the tram system is efficient too. (Much better transport than Sydney).

Melbourne is quite out of the way for easy travelling. So if you are to do travelling, I would try to do that in huge blocks as opposed to more regular short trips as it can be pricey.