

2012-2013

University Attended: University of Melbourne

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

There was a three day welcome program that you can join, although it wasn't cheap, but I highly recommend it. It's basically an introductory program where you meet all other exchanges and explore Melbourne together. Met a bunch of great people there and was a great way to settle in. Then there was the usual 'o-week' (freshens weeks), but because it's their second semester it wasn't as big as the one after the summer holiday.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

The style of teaching was very similar to University of Manchester, with two hours per week of lectures and either a tutorial or workshop. You only need to choose 4 subjects, but make sure you don't choose all level 3 subjects, (that was the mistake I made) as it is recommended by University of Melbourne for students to take at least a breadth subject, so choose a subject in level 2.

Methods of assessment varies between courses, some are pure assignment base, and some are a mix between assignments and exams. Teaching support depends on your lecturer and you tutor, but generally they are very helpful and responded to my emails promptly.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The level of support that was given were very helpful, they responded to my emails promptly and always dropped me an email updating my progress. This assured me that they'll be there for me if anything did go wrong.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

The second year meetings was really helpful with providing the information about our year abroad, not only with what is required but also informing us where support and help is needed when necessary. We also got the chance to talk to some students that were from exchange from University of Melbourne too. I found that really useful as I got to ask direct questions about housing, transport, what to expect etc.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

This is located on campus, and can be found when searched under global mobility University of Melbourne. You basically don't need to be in contact with them unless there's an issue with enrolling to a subject or other matters that may occur.

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

OSHC healthcare insurance was a requirement to enter Australia, it was a rather pricey, but if you're entitled to receive full student finance then this can be covered along with return tickets.

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.

There weren't any additional costs that I can remember, but the living standard in Melbourne can be quite high. So applying for a part time job might be necessary if you want to do some travelling or not live on toast and porridge. The minimum wage here is \$16 (if you're under 21) or \$17.50, which is roughly equivalent to £10!! But lookout where you apply for your job, as usually restaurants especially Asians or Italians pay under the table, only paying roughly between \$8-\$13.

ACCOMMODATION

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

I had no idea where I was going to stay when I first arrived, I just went to the welcome program and met a bunch of lovely people who offered me a place to stay until I found a place. Not really recommended as it was rather stressful, but it did mean I found a friend to share an apartment with. There is the main student hall RMIT village, which has a lot of student activity and spirit going on but it can be pricey, and you have to share a small apartment with another person, with just a sliding door separating you both. Basically living on Swanston St or in the Carlton area is the most ideal location to live, as its walking distance away from uni campus and the city (CBD). However I would steer clear away from Unilodge on Swanston St, the place was filthy with cockroaches and mice. You also have to share a kitchen and bathroom with 25 others, and for the price they are asking I wouldn't recommend it at all.

Try to find a place that includes Internet in the rent as there is a limit on how much data you can use in uni, I think 1GB...and that's nowhere near enough for a week's usage. My friend brought a dongle from Vodafone but it was mostly useless. Also if you're willing to travel a fair bit, Brunswick (where many students live, although a bit rough) or Fitzroy (trendy, with a lot of cool bars and restaurants) is good area to stay; plus you'll get cheaper rent.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Melbourne was rated one of the most liveable cities in the world and it surely has lived up to that. There's something for everyone, beach in st Kilda, rooftop bars in the CBD, laneways with unique cafes for brunch, wildlife in Phillip island, great open space just a few hours away, and plenty of yummy food to suit everyone's taste and budget. I must say the one thing I would truly miss here in Melbourne is the coffee culture, I feel upset with the thought of going back to Costa or Starbucks coffee. Melbournians truly take their coffee seriously. If you want to try one I recommend Market lane coffee next to Queen Victoria market. On that note, QV market is a place where you can buy all fresh produce, souvenirs, deli etc. and is where I do my weekly food shopping! It's just much cheaper and fresher than buying it from Woolworths or Coles (the main supermarkets).

I did a fair bit of travelling whilst I was here. A must do is to travel down the east coast from Cairns, to Brisbane and to Sydney. If you're up in Cairns go out to the Great Barrier Reef before it disappears in 20 yrs or so time. It's just beautiful there. You can also catch cheap flights with the airline Jetstar to Sydney or Tasmania, which are both only 1 or 2 hours away.

The main society I would recommend is the MUSEX society, it basically gathers all exchanges for bar crawls, nights out, and a surf weekend (that involves drinking more than surfing) which you have to queue early for as tickets are usually sold out within the first hour.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

It's so cliché, but it was definitely one of the best year of my life!!!