

2012-2013

University Attended: University of Economics, Prague

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

I was greeted at the airport by a buddy who then brought us to the dorms and helped me get settled in. She then came back the next day and took me to the school to ensure I was inducted properly by signing all forms, receiving timetables etc. On top of this there was an induction weekend for exchange students where they went to another Czech town and spent the weekend playing games and getting to know each other. I personally decided not to do this because the people in my flat were not and it just didn't seem like my sort of thing. On the whole, I found the induction process very straightforward and had no problems.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

The teaching style in Prague was rather similar to that in Manchester. Larger lecture classes with smaller seminar classes. The lecturer using powerpoints and asking questions. I did find that a lot of the material covered in Prague I already had studied in previous years. In semester one I experienced difficulty with one class as I felt the lecturer was not committed and sometimes just did not turn up to class so I found that particular class quite bad. Assessment was slightly different in Prague. They had many multiple choice exams, mid terms, presentations and essays per module but I preferred this as it took some of the pressure off final exams.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

I only have good things to say about our International Team. I felt very prepared before going and once out there I knew I could always email if I had any problems. For example, when I lost my MasterCard Cash Passport it was sorted out immediately by Manchester with just one email from me.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

In Prague, the dorms were a system of room sharing. Obviously this is never done in the UK so was quite daunting. I don't remember being told about this in the early meetings but was informed later in the year by the girls who studied there. Perhaps in future it could be directly told to the Prague exchange students ASAP so they can possibly sort something out if they so wish.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

I found the VSE exchange office very helpful, on demand and friendly. I rarely had to speak to them except for sorting out Erasmus bureaucracy and I only ever faced positivity.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

I hope this was covered by University of Manchester because I don't remember filing for anything!

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

Cost of living in Prague is generally very cheap. Transport pass for 6 months was £45. Books were available from the library and apart from food etc, I can't recall any other major costs.

ACCOMMODATION

As previously mentioned the dorms are shared rooms. I was fortunate enough to be put in a room with Josh, the other Erasmus student and good friend, but still... It was a challenging experience. There was no common room so it was very much when you're home you're on your bed with little to no privacy. On top of this there was no oven, microwave or freezer so cooking was pretty tricky. However it worked out at being 100pounds a month so you can see the positive. There were times it was getting to me so much and I didn't want it to tint my whole experience so for my second semester I found my own flat. It was still cheap (220 a month) and had the advantages the dorms did not. I would recommend going to the dorms definitely for the first bit because you meet all the people and if it really gets to you, you can move out but definitely try it. You don't want to miss out on stuff and become lonely.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Prague is in such a prime location of Europe so Josh and I did a lot of travelling. We went to Spain, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and the Netherlands. It is also very cheap so we were able to go out a lot in the local clubs and restaurants. We didn't meet a lot of the Czech people as they tend to be pretty unfriendly (understatement of the year!) toward 'tourists' but there were lots of other people from all over the world we got to know.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The best possible year you could ever have filled with invaluable experiences and moments – can't believe it is over!

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

The induction was held in the university that was pretty easy to find. Plus there are maps everywhere so even if you get lost you can get on back easily. We received welcome packs with our weeks schedule, maps, information about the university, the city and other information that was very helpful. There were students there from the university that were happy to help and lead us in the right direction.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

There was a variation in the courses provided. With international management, the American lecturer was very interactive and the international interactive was extremely eye opening and informative. The subject sociology was less cooperative and the lecturer mainly reeled off information, that was sometimes less effective. The varied choice of courses was great. I was able to learn the in depth history of communism and the implementation on Eastern Europe. This was a subject that I would not have usually chosen but it was a surprising insight.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

They were quick and helpful when I sent them my emails concerning unit choices. I did not have to contact them any other time.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

The level of communication with the international students was very helpful. The computer system used by the university can sometimes be hard to understand so any queries I had were quickly dealt with.

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.

The accommodation was around £25 per week, transport was £25 for a 3 weeks pass (valid for buses, tram and underground). The books were optional but I purchased one for International Management that was £15 from the university book store. I used it thoroughly during my revision for exams.

ACCOMMODATION

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

The accommodation is very basic. Students share a room that could take a bit of getting used to for some people. I was lucky that I knew the person that I was sharing with so there was not any problems. There is no communal area either so I had to constantly use my bed for eating, reading, studying etc. However, the experience of living with all the other international students was great. I got to meet a lot of people and have some really good experiences with them. Also, when group presentations were set we could all meet up easily. So all in all, even though it was out of my comfort zone to start with, when I look back I would not have had the same year abroad if I had not stayed in the student accommodation.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

The student social life in Prague is great. Every Tuesday the university held a Nation to Nation Party where all the international students came together to meet and chat. During my year abroad I travelled to Berlin, Barcelona, Krakow and Vienna. As Prague is in central Europe it is pretty easy and cheap to travel by bus to various cities. There is also an Erasmus group that organizes excursions to cities such as Budapest and Krakow (this can be found through the University of Economics facebook page). The overall experience was amazing, I cannot stop telling people about my experiences. The opportunity has been life changing and I have met friends that I will continue to keep in touch with.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

An unforgettable, amazing, eye opening experience