

## **OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM - 2007/2008**

**Program:** IMABS

**University Attended:** Queen's University

### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

There were two separate orientation programs, one run by the university and one by the business school.

The University run orientation imitated their fresher orientations and many of their events were sanctioned. I personally didn't participate in this week as you had to pay around \$100 - \$200 for it and didn't feel I would personally enjoy the events. Having said this I do know people who did it and who enjoyed it.

The orientations run by the Business school through the ETC were great! They organized many events for the first week including, BBQ's, our first Keggers, a pub crawl and camping, but we still had time to explore ourselves. They ensured that all the exchange students were well integrated before the first week of lectures and were incredibly helpful with any problems we had. The ETC and (then) EKIK, which I believe is being renamed, run many events throughout the year, from pub crawls in Kingston to trips to New York and Toronto, to name a few. I would recommend getting involved as much as you can!

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

Studying in Kingston could not be any different to Manchester.

There is a lot of variety in courses you can take and there is no problem getting into courses – just make sure you sign up early! Lots of people add/drop course in the first few weeks though so there is plenty of opportunity to change courses you don't like or get into courses you hadn't managed to earlier. If you really want a course and can't get into it, if you go and see Jen McNeeley in the International office then she might be able to sort you out.

The teaching style at Queen's is great. They have much smaller classes within the Business School (max 50) and lectures are much more interactive and engaging. The professors know the names of all students in their classes and are very supportive of all students and are easily approachable outside class.

Assessment is continuous throughout the term. Expect 2 pieces of c/w, a midterm exam and a final exam as an average for each class! You will also be involved in lots of group work and don't be surprised if they give you a percentage of your final mark based on class participation!

Although they do work you hard, I went to Queen's expecting a year similar, if not somewhat easier than to Manchester and I survived!

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

*Level of support, additional information that could have been useful*

Prior to going to Canada I hadn't had too much contact with the international office outside the routine emails they send to everyone. However, Sue and her team have been great this year. They have responded quickly and thoroughly to all my queries and have been easily approachable and friendly.

It would have been good to have more information about Queen's and Kingston before we left. But I guess as the first students to go to Queen's, this information would have been limited and harder to access.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

*Any additional information that could have been useful*

A map showing where all the universities were! And distances to/from each other. I thought Queen's was much closer to Toronto and Montreal than it actually was!

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

Angie, Jen and the team in the international office were amazing. They would sort out almost every problem for you and helped you find the people/things you needed when your quire was outside the business school itself. They were very welcoming and friendly and by the second term we'd pop in just to have a chat!

They were very slow at responding to emails and seemed disorganized. Although this was outside the control of the International office, I feel it would be useful for future students to be aware of.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Halls were as you'd expect student halls to be! You only get the choice of two: Jean Royce and Harkness International Hall (where I was). In terms of which I'd recommend... Jean Royce is fun for the first semester as there's loads of exchange

students down there, however it's a good 30minute walk from the main campus. Harkness on the other hand is a 2 minute walk from the Business school and right in the heart of the student ghetto, but my floor was very quiet. So I'd put them on a par for the first semester, but defiantly Harkness for the second as there are a lot less exchange students, and most people moved up to Harkness.

Although I wasn't in co-op housing I know a lot of people who were and who would all recommend it. Make sure you take their meal plan though if you opt for this, as I had a friend who didn't and didn't get as much enjoyment out of the experience.

I moved into a house after Christmas with 3 other exchange students, which was great fun and I would defiantly recommend being in a house. There are many more housing options in the second semester as this is when most of the Canadians go on exchange. If you plan to do as I did, or want the option to move into a house, then just apply for halls for one term. It's very difficult to get out of a year contract with the university (as my friend found) and there is a much smaller demand for rooms in the second semester, so as long as you've decided mid first term, there should be little problem getting back in.

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

Kingston is not the centre of the universe but there's lots going on all year. They have just as many student clubs/groups as Manchester and there mad into their sports. Join the ski club if you can, there trips are a great laugh! The social life is intense, it may be a small place but there's lots of partying to be done! Alfies on a Wednesday and Joy on a Friday were firm favorites, as well as Keggars! Due to the nature of the Business School there is lots of integration with local students and you should get involved as much as you can!

It's very easy to travel from Kingston to various places (Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Tremblant, New York...). They have a good student bus service to Montreal and Toronto and there's a Coach Canada terminal that covers a few more destinations. They also have an airport which does flights to Toronto and a train station. Car hire is very reasonable, and this is how we did most of our traveling.

I have defiantly learnt the art of 'work hard, play hard' this year!

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

Incredible...the best year of my life (to date)!!