

**2012-2013**

**University Attended: University of Queensland**

## **FEEDBACK 1**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

There is an orientation week just like in Manchester, there are plenty of events around campus, around city and main spots. They are really useful and targeted to exchange students, explaining what is important and how to survive in Australia ! During orientation, students are given a checklist with tasks that they have to complete during it, such as getting a student card, opening a bank account, sending a letter back to home institution etc. There are plenty of outdoor activities such as barbecues, which are a great place to meet new people and build contacts. On one day of the orientation week is the Market day, when all the clubs, societies etc gather in the campus to attract new members. Great way to find what sport or club you want to join.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

Style of teaching is pretty similar to Manchester, they use blackboard, upload lecture slides before lectures and other helpful materials. Lectures are not compulsory to go, however, in seminars there are attendance sheets. You are provided with a couple of lectures spots to choose from for most of the subjects, as well as plenty of seminar spots so you can build your own university week. The methods of a assessment are a bit different. They use mid-semester exams which are usually worth between 20% and 40% of your overall grade, somewhere between week 6 and 8. Some courses have an assignment, mid-term and a final. The good thing is that there is not as much pressure on the final as there is in Manchester. Teaching support is really good, there are plenty of consultations throughout the semester as well as just before exam. Interestingly, people do not seem to use the discussion board in blackboard a lot. Exams run for 2 weeks in November, then you have 3 months off, Australian summer. Start again around late February and have exams in mid June. Passing grade for most of the business courses is 50 %. However, it is as difficult as getting 40 % in Manchester.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

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

International office (D20) have been wonderful. Sue and Andy solved a lot of my problems concerning academic transcripts and other support with no fuss and really fast. Even compared to the Exchange office here in Australia, D20 were faster and more reliable. I want to say a big thank you to Sue and Andy for being there for me, and other exchange students and giving us help from over 11, 000 miles away as well as keeping us up to date about what was going on in Manchester.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided.

I think the meeting were really useful, at first I was determined to stay in Europe in my exchange year, and then I met these wonderful people from universities here in Australia, this completely changed the course of my life for a year ahead and a lot more to come.

## **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

Host offices are really chilled and relaxed. They are of a great help if you need something in particular. However, they have two different offices. The **student centre** is about university issues, student issues, paying fees and etc. While the **student services** provide help for CV checks, medical questions, finding a place to live in Australia, travel tips and more general life questions.

## **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

Thank you very much for this question. I have purchased the compulsory Allianz OSHC cover it was around 250 dollars for 1 year. The thing is it did not cover dental or other not emergency costs. Basically it is only useful if you are to receive emergency help. The Insurance from uni, helped with my dental cost, which are really high in Australia (250 dollars for a filling, the cheapest), as well as a couple of doctor's appointments. There is a doctor on campus who is there especially for students' needs. I wholeheartedly want to say thank you for the Insurance Policy from you Manchester Uni because without it my life in Australia would have been a lot harder.

## **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.

I do not remember paying for something that was significant, maybe a couple of dollars for the student card issue, most of all it was accommodation, food and transport I was paying a lot.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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

Accommodation in Brisbane is relatively cheaper than Sydney and Melbourne. I am staying in 3-bedroom house in Toowong, which is the first suburb after the University Campus (St. Lucia). It takes no longer than 10 minutes on the bus with all the traffic and etc. My rent is 135\$ per week, inclusive of everything. However, this is a really good price to pay, most student accommodations are around 180\$ - 220\$ per week. But it is not unusual to have a pool in the house, especially for the over 200\$ mark. There are plenty of ways for finding a place to stay.

1. University Halls – here they call them Colleges, they are situated in St. Lucia, right next to the university, however, they are pretty expensive over 240\$ a week.
2. University checked accommodation (<http://ugrentals.com.au/>) – this is a great way of looking for a relatively secure and wide variety of suburbs and prices accommodations. I had found it the most useful place to look.
3. Gumtree is another way for finding a place to live, most of my friends used it and were able to find really decent accommodation.

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

Transport in and out of Brisbane is really convenient. In the city you have plenty of buses, trains and the City Cat, which is a ferry that goes from the University to the Northern Suburbs of Brisbane via West End, Toowong, City and South Bank which are the major student spots. All you need to travel is a Go card, which you can buy from every newsagents or supermarket and you top it up as you go. Travelling out of Brisbane for example to the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast is nice and easy. There are trains that you can catch from the City and in less than an hour and a half you are there. Travelling in Queensland and Interstate is not really expensive, a return ticket to Sydney costs around 200\$ and one to Melbourne is about 300\$.

Australian social life is a lot similar to the southern countries in Europe such as Spain, Italy, Greece. They like to make barbecues, and have some beers with peers, generally friendly and outgoing, making it not hard at all to make friends. Fun fact that wherever you go, French people stick to French people, English people stick to English people, Germans to Germans. A friendly suggestion might be to open your eyes a little more and use the opportunity to meet people from everywhere in Australia. The population here is a lot more diverse than England. Use it, make friends !

## **FEEDBACK 2**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

O Week is effectively like freshers, fairly useful but some of it is pointless and you'll already know from living in Manchester. The international society runs a load of events right at the start so you can meet everyone, I went out only knowing one other person but by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week you know pretty much most people on the exchange or have at least met them. O week also involves a welcome to Australia bit which has a bit of value in it but some of things are just common sense for example if you see a red back spider, don't step on it.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

Very similar to Manchester, although some of the courses require somebody to sign off on you doing them which can be fairly frustrating. This takes about half an hour to sort out though. It differs to Manchester in the fact that the courses are much more specific and assume a fair bit of knowledge from an Australian perspective.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Good, I know that I only had to contact Sue over being useless with forms and she was always helpful. Having spoken to other people from different unis at home it seems that Manchester are pretty good comparatively.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

All good, maybe the previous years email addresses for local knowledge. It would have been helpful I know for example that the Leeds uni lot got the same house as the previous years group. The students from UCD in Ireland were given the email addresses but then again had I have been desperate to get into contact I would have found them on facebook. *(MBS comment: All outgoing MBS students have access to the names and emails of students who have been at the same institution the year before. It is all on the UG Intranet.)*

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

I never actually had any contact with the host international office it was much more with the BEL faculty who were always spot on with dealing with any issues.

### **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

Annoying having to pay \$400 but very easy to do, the uni offers a free health service as well which was fantastic. They also have specialist sports doctors because UQ is huge on their sport which meant that when you go in with

an injury from sport they can sort you out as they are more specialised and won't tell you just to rest. The insurance that Manchester provides is really good as well, a couple of my friends have claimed on it and it pretty much covers anything which is really helpful.

#### **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.

Beer can reach \$12 a schooner, also charged \$50 for late sign on to each course, but if you're fairly on the ball and are organised then there really aren't any hidden costs

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

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

UQ run a rental service that makes it really easy to get somewhere to live. Also if you've got the money go into one of the colleges, they sound absolutely brilliant. Everyone I met from the colleges loved them, they do however tend to keep themselves to themselves though. There is very much a split between the college kids and the non-college kids.

#### **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

The UQ international society Quest is absolutely brilliant, get on as many trips as possible on the first semester so you can meet people, its fairly orientated to get on the beers so if you don't drink alcohol be aware of that. The public transport is really good around Brisbane as well, it's just a great place. The campus is unbelievable as well, there is an area called the Great Court which is fantastic in the summer. If you can I'd probably try and get a house with a pool because it gets incredibly hot in the summer.

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

**Legitimately the best thing I've ever done, Brisbane is the place to be, and to top it with a victorious British and Irish Lions tour means I will probably never shut up about my time in Brisbane.**