

# OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 2008-2009

**Programme:** International Management

## **University Attended**

Singapore Management University

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

- One morning in a big lecture room. Good place to meet everyone and they give some general decent information. There is another one just before the start of the second term (2<sup>nd</sup> Jan this year) which you don't need to attend unless you want to meet the new exchange people (most people are only there for one term).

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

- Style of teaching is really good; small seminar classes with a lot of emphasis put on participation (generally makes up about 10-15% of your grade as well - easy points).

- Applying for courses is a bit complicated. The best thing to do is apply for courses in the same way you do in Manchester (similar system) as soon as they open. Make a list of about 10 or so that you want and pick them up in the order you want them the most. You probably won't get your favourite 4 at this stage but make sure you pick up 4 or 5 of your 10 anyway (you can always drop them later). Then AFTER you arrive, there is an online bidding stage called BOSS where you can bid for courses you may not have been able to get before (they explain this in the meeting) and drop other ones. But remember to pick up 4 or 5 courses you wouldn't mind doing before you get there. I had to bid for all my first semester courses in BOSS and didn't have a lot of bidding power so had to go for ones I didn't want as much.

- Often there are a lot of marks for projects and class participation which make these courses a bit easier to do well in.

- Quick run down of the courses I did:

Sales Management (Bala Shankar): Quite an easy one to do and pretty interesting, final exam was 3 hours open-laptop, impossible to fail. No attendance taken most of the time. There is also a project to do which is fine and two in-class assignments which are very easy.

Promotions Management (Sudhi Seshadri): Really nice guy. Pretty interesting course and there is no final exam which is good. Project is fine. No attendance taken. 2 in-class assignments with a cheat sheet allowed.

Biological Models for Business Applications (Markus Karner): Really interesting course and lecturer, recommend doing it for something different. Final exam is open book and not too bad but there is a midterm you'll need to revise for.

Financial Instruments, Institutions and Markets (Phoon Kok Fai): Good basic finance course covering pretty much everything. The guy is pretty laid back and interesting. Midterm is multiple choice and so is part of the final exam. Bigish project. No attendance taken.

Analysis of Equity Investments (Wang Wei Mun): Really good course but it is quite difficult. The project is long and I'd advice getting yourself in a group with locals for this one. There are two assignments which are easy and you can work on with other people as well (20%). Final exam is open book but still difficult! You must sign up for one seminar time but can attend any of the seminars he does throughout the week and no attendance is taken. No midterm.

Analysis of Fixed-Income Investments (Mitchell Craig Warachka): Very good course with a really cool, laid back American lecturer. 7 assignments which can be done at any time and in groups account for 50% of grade so you can almost pass before the final exam which is open laptop/notes though still not easy. No attendance taken. No project.

Applied Econometrics: Great lecturer and really interesting course but it is VERY HARD. Do not do this if you aren't prepared to work hard. Midterm and final exam are very difficult and group project is only worth 15%. If your going to do it, do well in the assignments - only worth 2.5% each but easy marks which you will want come exam time.

Introduction to Asian Modern History, Politics, Economics: Good course to do for something a bit different. Most classes are full-on class discussions and you need to take part in these or you will miss out on 15% of your grade. Attendance taken every week. Project is fine.

If you can, avoid early classes on Thursday as Wednesday is a big night in Singapore. Also you'll want to go travelling at weekends so the best thing to do is have just 2 or more realistically 3 days of classes something like Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday so that you can travel Thursday -> Monday. Another idea is to pick courses in one semester that have no final exams so that you can travel during exam time. There is a study week in the middle of each term which you will probably travel in (might want to make sure the midterm exams are before the break to make it a bit easier - you can even ask your lecturer to do it before even if the locals are doing it after, they are generally really nice). Also, local students do a lot of project work during study week so if your in project groups with locals, you will need to sort this out. In general, its probably best to get in study groups with other exchange students if you can (the locals are very keen and have lots of meetings which mainly

don't end up being very productive anyway). For more difficult courses its good to have locals in your group.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Really good, they'll sort out anything you need.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that could have been useful

No.

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

Didn't really have much contact with them. They seem really nice though. You can store bags with them between semesters if you are changing accommodation.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

I lived on River Valley Road in first semester, very near Zouk. Awesome place to live, you can walk to Zouk and back for nights out as well as Orchard road whenever you want. I also ran to uni and back sometimes which is just at the end of Orchard Road.

Second semester I lived in Farrer Park which wasn't as nice an area (too close to Little India - don't live there by the way) but the condo itself was lovely.

In general you can pay about the same prices as in Manchester but you will have a swimming pool/tennis courts in your condo. There are some really nice places around Orchard/River Valley and Newton/Novena.

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

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

- Get yourself an EZ link card as soon as you arrive, works on the MRT and all buses (make sure you swipe it when you get on AND off).

- Social scene is pretty good but drinks are ridiculously expensive. Zouk and Ministry of Sound are the biggest/probably the best clubs. Check out clinic bar.

- There are great places to eat out all over the place. Cheap food can always be found at the hawker centres and if your at uni, the food place in the concourse is alright. If you want to save a bit of money, try going to Cold Storage at about 8pm, you can pick up whole cooked chickens for about £2.

- The travelling is obviously awesome, go as much as you can: Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia , Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Tioman etc etc etc...

- Local students are really nice, got to know them best in the sports clubs.
- Remember to bring a towel to the gym or you'll have to buy one off them. I have about 15 SMU ones, no lie.

**DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

Awesome