

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 2008-2009

Programme Bsc INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT (HONS)

University Attended NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS)

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

This involved a few integration lectures for incoming international students where they provided us with information on how to use IVLE (equivalent to Webct/Blackboard) and generally facilities available to us at NUS and how to access them. The matriculation fair (equivalent to Fresher's fair) was excellent in giving us lots of extra information on extra-curricula societies. NUS is incredibly active in its sports societies (they even have professional advertisements to promote them). Nothing is done half heartedly at NUS. We were lucky to attend further cultural integration talks which were only available at our halls of residence Prince George's Park (PGP). These cultural talks introduced us to Singlish and other Mandarin/Malay phrases that would sometimes help us when ordering food.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Since group work was the main form of assessment, We needed formal attire for many assessed presentations that we had to do in our classes. However none of the exchange students brought formal clothes with us since under our studentpass visa we are not permitted to work, so therefore we thought we wouldn't need to bring formal attire.

I took the majority of courses in MNO (Management & Organisations) and MKT (Marketing). I have to give credit to NUS Business Schools choice of modules, there is such a vast range of different modules (more than MBS) and they seem to be more specialised, e.g. Leadership in Organisations. To be completely honest I believe the courses were of easier material compared to MBS. In NUS I took level 2 and level 3 modules which seemed to be of an easier standard. However, there are a lot of weekly deadlines. The difficulty comes in the form of the grading system. NUS marks on a bell shape curve which means that your percentage is irrelevant considering your grade is decided upon comparing your mark to the rest of your classmates. For example, in my Chinese module I scored 90% and I got a C+ because my other classmates got a higher grade than me. But do not let this scare you, it is easy to pass but not so easy to get the highest grade. Style of teaching at NUS is very different from MBS. Most of my modules were Continually Assessed (CA) meaning I did not have a final exam but instead was graded continually through different forms of assessment including participation/attendance, group project, presentations and class quizzes. I prefer this method because it is more broken up and your grade is not just reliant on one exam. The teaching style is very different. I had mainly sectionals which were 3 hours. Sectionals are basically a lecture and tutorial combined in one sitting. The teaching is more personal since there are usually about 30 people in each class and the professor really makes an effort to learn your name and about yourself. There is much more class involvement because participation counts towards your grade.

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The MBS International Office is very organised and efficient. Whenever I had problems or queries, they were more than willing to help and even if they were not sure of the answer,

they would direct me towards the right direction. From talking to other students on exchange from British Universities, it sounded like their international offices were highly disorganised and inefficient.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that could have been useful

The second meeting was helpful

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

The NUS international office is very helpful in the business school. Lin is so helpful and so is Jessie Toh. They are always willing to help. However this cannot be said, so much, for the rest of the NUS faculties. Do not be surprised that admin aren't always so willing to help, sometimes you just have to be very patient and persevere and you will get the help you need in the end. Additional information that could have been useful was the fact that we weren't informed when we should pick our modules for semester 2. No one at NUS informed us that we had to pick them at the end of semester 1, before our exams. So by the time we realised that we had to pick, all the good modules were gone and we didn't have much choice as to which modules we could choose for semester 2. NUS and MBS should inform students, next time, that modules for semester 2 should be chosen at the end of semester 1, the earlier you choose, the more likely you are to receive the modules you wish. Another thing I think students should be aware of is the fact that you have to bid for modules, not so much in business, however for your cultural options, you must bid. NUS has an insanely competitive system (in most things) for choosing modules. Luckily due to MBS good organisation, we already had our modules when we arrived so we didn't need to bid.

ACCOMMODATION

Prince George's Park Residences (PGPR), is the residence where all the international students stay. Compared to UK Universities accommodation I thought it was really nice (I did have type A air-con and en-suite though), there are fountains everywhere and a supermarket and restaurants and food courts in the residence as well as sports facilities. It is a huge residence where thousands of people live, so it makes it a very social place. An important thing I would like to state is that we had a problem with accommodation, since none of the exchange students that had lived in PGPR in Semester 1 were offered accommodation for semester 2. However we all complained since we were furious that we only got a rejection email on the last day of term in semester 1 (meaning most people had already left to go travelling or had exams coming up so didn't have time to look for new accommodation). It worked out in the end and we all got offered PGP again in semester 2 and were in the same room as semester 1. Bear in mind that Singapore is a very strict country. The rules in residence are very strict compared to the UK, for example no alcohol is allowed in the residence and no guests are allowed in your room past 11pm, frequent room checks occur also. But no one I know had a problem at PGP.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Singapore is a perfect place to go on exchange because it is so easy to live there, since it is such a strict country you never have to fear getting scammed or mugged. All the taxis are metered, it is one of the safest countries in the world, it is sunny everyday of the year, there are so many cultures and religions that you will learn about. It is in a perfect location to travel to other places, with the budget airlines you can travel to the rest of SE Asia, Japan, Australasia for dirt cheap. NUS prides itself on its social societies, there are so many extra curricula you can get involved with and the sporting facilities are really good. Swimming and the gym is free!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The best year of my life