

**2013-2014**

**University Attended: New York University- Stern Business School**

## **FEEDBACK 1**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

We had an initial meeting with fellow IBEX students the first week. You must make sure that you are in New York for this meeting as it will give you all the relevant information you need. Although events are not organised specifically for IBEX students this week, make sure that you exchange details with everyone at the meeting. That being said, we were able to claim a lot of freebies that week including tickets to a Yankees game and front row seats to the US Open. Thankfully, we all became close very quickly and went out a lot that week around New York. There is also an equivalent to fresher's week which you can attend. Like fresher's week, you will probably only be best friends with these people for the week. However, it is a good way to see the city and find out what New York has to offer.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

Stern is very different from MBS. The class sizes are relatively small (one of my classes only has nine people). You must be prepared to work hard but I promise it will be worth it and you will learn so much. This means that classes are extremely interactive and you must be prepared. Students call university "school" here and to a certain extent you will feel like you have returned to "school". Teaching styles vary just like Manchester. Some teachers here are extremely causal, for example in my law and entrepreneurship class the teacher never followed the syllabus. Although some may be against this, I must admit that I learnt so much in this class due to the diverse discussions. Other classes are very much like a sixth form classroom. I found this difficult to adjust to as we are given a lot of independence in Manchester and are not spoon fed. There is less of a focus on final exams due to the number of assignments. You are also graded on class participation so make sure that you speak up. I would also recommend you pick your courses early. Over pick your courses and if you do not like one, you can always drop it early in the semester.

Top three recommendations;

1. Negotiations and Consensus building- One of the most practical courses I have ever done as a business student. You will learn skills which can be transitioned to any career.
2. Real Estate Transactions- If you are interested in the property market, this course will cover everything you will ever need to know. Yes it is stressful and there is a lot of work but the knowledge you will pick up is priceless,
3. Experiential learning classes- These classes are like internships. You will have to go to lectures but you will also be able to work with organisations. The first semester I was able to work with Vogue and the CFDA whilst in the second semester I worked with a law firm near Wall Street. For any potential consultants, these courses will really give you a idea of how the industry truly operates.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The MBS team were incredibly helpful. I started off as an IM student and then switched to IMABS a week before the choices were due. Sue was there to listen to me rant about whether I should switch courses and remained unbiased. By letting me speak it out, it really helped me decide to change courses which I do not regret at all.

## **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

The meetings were useful but nothing will really prepare you until you are there. Make sure that you research the cities that the universities are located because you will be living there. Perhaps the meetings could have discussed this further instead of focusing a majority of time on the universities. Also make sure that you speak to the people who have been to the host universities. They will be your best resource and more informative than the meetings as they have been there! That being said, the meetings give you a good overview when making your selection.

## **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

Lisa and Kelsey are lovely. I had problems when I first came to the university as I had nowhere to live. Lisa helped me get in contact with the accommodation office and pushed me through to get student halls. I could not be more grateful as making sure you have a good place to live abroad is vital. They are also extremely helpful with course choices.

## **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

NYU has an insurance programme which you have to purchase. You can never predict what may happen but I recommend buying the lowest coverage as it is still effective. I did not do this and spent thousands of dollars on insurance which I have not used. It got to the point that I felt extremely guilty for spending so much on insurance that I started going to the health centre to get random health checks (to get my money's worth).

## **INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS AND FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION**

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc. Any information that you had to provide on financial certificate would be helpful.

Some classes require you to purchase a "course pack" so you can access online material. This can range anywhere from \$30-\$100+

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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

Accommodation was a big problem for me. New York is an amazing city but it is not a spacious one. I came out a week early to try and organise everything. Although I had a student accommodation sorted, I was apprehensive about sharing a room. Therefore, I looked around and checked online for other options. I found a place in Stuy Town which sounded great online but in person was awful. You get very little for your money in New York. Therefore, I settled for student halls and I could not be happier. I am in Carlyle court which is located in Union Square. It is the best location and everything is around you. The subway station is opposite the halls and has every line you could possibly need. Sharing a room has its ups and down but I was fortunate to be in a room with a girl who is now one of my best friends. If I can share a room (being an only child that really enjoys their own space more than anything) anyone can. There are halls with single rooms but you must be prepared to spend more than \$9000 a semester. If you do not want to live in halls, I recommend you look at sites like craigslist or air bnb where you can get good rates. Just make sure you look at the place before you go! One of my international friends booked a place which was invested with cockroaches which he would have known if he simply visited the building before paying the rent. Manhattan is of course great to live in but if you want a "Northern Quarter" feel with cheaper rates I recommend Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The rental rates are substantially cheaper and it is still easy to get into university.

As someone who could have done with more help on accommodation, please feel free to contact me for more information on this!

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

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

Living in New York is a dream but is extremely expensive. You must be able to budget well. Transport is easy and walking around is probably the best way to explore the city. The subway is similar to the tube but it goes 24 hours. I have never felt that I was in a dangerous position but make sure you are sensible. Taxis are relatively cheap but make sure you tip them to avoid them getting angsty at you. Social life is non stop. Be prepared to work hard and play hard. People run here off minimal sleep and always have energy for everything. Integrating with local students is easy due to the amount of group work. Most of my friends are locals rather than international. This is great because they know the places to go and the best things to do in this city. I honestly cannot speak more highly of New York. I have been able to do things that I never imagined ever doing. You will most likely have no free time but you will fill your exchange year with experiences that are priceless. I have also been fortunate enough to travel around America and Canada whilst I have been here. Not having class on a Friday gives you the opportunity to take weekend trips. Every flight and train leaves from New York so you will have lots of opportunity to travel.

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

**A fairy-tale in New York is everything you expect, only much better.**